GSIS execs getting ₱724,000 bonus each

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2001 ★★ 66 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 293 ₱15

Metro folk back anti-terror war

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

A SURVEY of Metro Manilans shows that 75 percent believe the Philippines should help in the US-led international coalition against terrorism.

However, a large number within the group—43 percent—said they were not in favor of send-

METRO/ A5

IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

- Cesar Montano's bundle of joy
- US radio, MTV air more soothing fare after assault
- Julia Roberts, America's sweetheart
- Janno Gibbs just keeps on giving

MONTANO

GMA: Call to arms a remote prospect

US troops scouring Afghanistan since Sept. 13

AS EARLY as two days after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, US elite troops were on a mission to hunt down terrorist Osama bin Laden, concentrating their searches in caves and underground bunkers in Afghanistan—but they haven't been able to find him, USA Today reported yesterday.

The newspaper said US commandos arrived in Pakistan on Sept. 13 and began moving into Afghanistan with orders to capture or kill the Saudi-born Islamic militant, or pin him down until the United States can launch air strikes.

In another report yesterday, the Associated Press said the global manhunt for Bin Laden, the prime suspect in the US investigation, has thwarted two terrorist attacks since the Sept. 11 strikes.

Evidence seized in raids in the United States and in Europe included plans or materials for an attack on the US Embassy in Paris and an attack with explosives on a military site in Brussels, Belgium, unnamed US law enforcement and intelligence officials said.

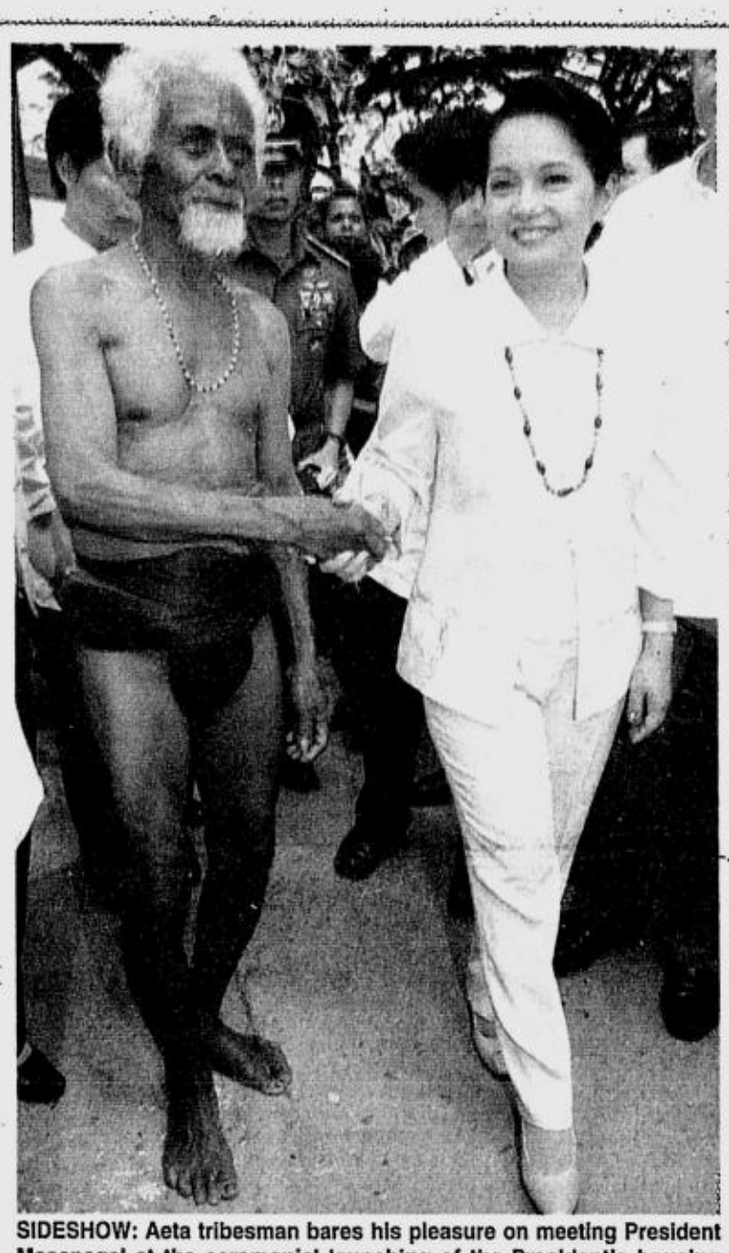
Also quoting unidentified American officials, USA Today said several elite military units were involved in the effort to find Bin Laden in Afghanistan, including the Army's Green Berets, Navy SEALS and the British Army's Special Air Services.

The newspaper said US special operations forces had landed in the Pakistani cities of Peshawar and Quetta.

Teams of three to five soldiers, supported by Black Hawk MH-60K helicopters based outside Afghanistan, began deploying into the country to locate Bin Laden, concentrating their search in southwest Afghanistan near Kandahar, the newspaper said.

But the troops were reportedly having trouble finding him, and US officials have asked Pakistan, Rus-

US/ A4



SIDESHOW: Aeta tribesman bares his pleasure on meeting President Macapagal at the ceremonial launching of the President's housing village for Aeta families on Friday at Clark in Angeles, Pampanga, where the international airport was renamed after her father, former President Diosdado Macapagal. EDWIN BACASMAS

RP to send troops, but only with Congress OK

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—At the President Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, the former Clark airport that she renamed yesterday after her late father, President Macapagal-Arroyo described the possible deployment of Filipino combat troops in the US-led war against terrorism as a "remote possibility."

At a press briefing at the airport, she also said there was "no plan" to bring home Filipinos working in potential areas of conflict, and that US troops on "transit and transshipment" missions through Clark or Subic would not be allowed to go on rest and recreation.

The President sought to downplay the planned deployment of Filipino troops—part of her announced "14 pillars" of policy and action against terrorism—which had met with strong public opposition.

"If there is an international call, we will be willing to provide troops subject to congressional concurrence. However, that is a remote possibility. I don't think there will be a call for combat troops," she said.

Ms Macapagal also defended her decision to give all-out support to the US-led war, but suggested that there would be no increase in the budget for intelligence toward this end.

"I want to correct the premise that we will be the subject of terrorism because we are supporting the US. We are already the subject of terrorism," she said as some 100 members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan picketed Clark's main gate to decry her "utter puppetry to the US" and demand the junking of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT).

Asked if part of the war preparations included increasing the budget for intelligence, which US President George W. Bush had said was the most powerful weapon against terrorism, she asked: "But where will it come from?"

The President said that if and when, the arrival of US troops would be "under the usual arrangements" of the VFA.

"One of the reasons we have a (VFA) commission is precisely to prevent the prostitution industry from arising because of that. Let's call a spade a spade. We don't want them to hire prostitutes in the Philippines," she said.

The President also said the business viability of the Clark Special Economic Zone, an issue about which investors had expressed grave concern, would not conflict

GMA/ A15

'It's duty of Arabs to own nukes'

IN THE world according to Osama bin Laden, Muslims should own chemical, biological and nuclear weapons; every American man is a target; and Western attacks on Arabs are the handiwork of Jews and Israelis who have infiltrated the US government.

"At a time when Israel stores hundreds of nuclear warheads and bombs and the Western Crusaders control a large percentage of unbalanced (power) . . . . It's the duty of Muslims to own (weapons), and America knows that, today, Muslims have acquired such (weapons)," Bin Laden said in an interview in Afghanistan in 1998.

A book includes a 54-page transcript of the complete interview that was broadcast throughout the

IT'S/ A4

Laundering bill needs amendments, says Gloria

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA, CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND CLARISSA S. BATINO

EVEN before the anti-money laundering bill becomes a law, President Macapagal-Arroyo wants it amended to meet the requirements of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

But the President said the measure being passed by Congress was enough to enable the country to avoid sanctions from the international community.

"At least the sanctions will not

LAUNDERING/ A5

Bush urges Americans: Go fly and shop again

CHICAGO—Shopping is being billed as an act of American patriotism.

Go back to business as usual, Americans were urged by President George W. Bush.

Saying that restoring faith in air travel was part of the war against terrorism and crucial to breathing new life in the slumping US economy, Bush urged the US public to "get on the airlines and to get about the business of America."

Bush boosted federal control over airline security Thursday in a bid to convince the US public that the skies are safe again.

Other officials are urging Americans to go shopping.

A trip to the mall is being billed by some Florida officials and citizens as an act of patriotism as the United States tries to rebound and rebuild after the devastating Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The slump in air travel since hijackers turned four jetliners into guided missiles has led US carriers to announce more than 80,000 layoffs and has deepened the US economic slowdown.

"Fly and enjoy America's great destination spots. Go down to Disney World in Florida, take your families and enjoy life the way we want it to be enjoyed," Bush told thousands of cheering airliner workers, who waved small US flags at a rally between American Airlines and United Airlines aircraft like those used in the attacks.

"On one side we see American, on the other side it says United. Because that's what we are: America is united," said Bush, who has vowed to retaliate against Osama bin Laden, the Saudi-born militant he blames for the Sept. 11 strikes.

Bush vowed to "dramatically increase" the federal "sky marshal" program, in which armed plainclothes agents will ride aboard commercial airliners as defense against takeovers such as those two weeks ago.

BUSH/ A4

Osama made Bill poorer by $7 billion

WASHINGTON—Poor Bill Gates. He's down to his last $46 billion. Osama bin Laden just made him poorer by $7.2 billion.

And two of his richest associates at Microsoft lost a total of $5.3 billion. Paul Allen was poorer by $2.8

OSAMA/ A4

NY Pinay dances to help promote Muslim culture

NEW YORK—A princess from Mindanao is promoting the arts of the Philippines here, in an effort to share the culture of an often misunderstood part of her homeland.

"We were royal people until we were enslaved by the Spaniards," says Filipino-American Potri Ranka Manis, creator of "Rajah Mangandiri," a ballet that harks back to the Hindu epic "The Ramayana."

The ballet is more than a show to Manis, 40, whose name means "Princess essence of sweetness." For her, it is a chance to show the indigenous and Muslim cultures of the Philippines.

She immigrated to the United States in 1992 and formed her dance troupe, Kinding Sindaw (Dance of Light), which recently performed at a series of cultural programs sponsored by the Philippine Consulate for the 170,000 or so Filipino-Americans who live in the New York-New Jersey area.

Manis, daughter of a sultan, lived in Maguing, a small town east of the volcanic Lake Lanao.

She grew up in a *turugan*—a bamboo-and-narra palace—where her father presided over legal cases, received visitors and was host to weddings and coronations.

Entertainment came as storytelling set to chants and mu-

NY/ A15

GRACE of Muslim culture: Potri Ranka Manis, a princess from Mindanao who immigrated to the United States in 1992, created and performed a ballet in a series of programs in New York to promote and share the often misunderstood Muslim culture of the Philippines.

Second FRONT PAGE

CHRISTMAS BONUSES AND MORE

GSIS bosses getting ₱724,000 each

BY DONNA S. CUETO

YOU want to be a millionaire? Get yourself appointed as a top executive of the Government Service Insurance System.

In fact, being in the bottom rung of the GSIS pecking order isn't so bad either.

To begin with, the GSIS president and members of the board of trustees each get a Christmas bonus of P723,968, according to figures from the Commission on Audit.

The GSIS president, with a salary grade of 31, receives a monthly take-home pay of P564,869.55, including the basic salary of P356,979 plus allowances.

The lowest paid GSIS employee, a laborer, with a salary grade of 3, has a monthly take-home pay of P27,021.50, including his basic salary of P14,670.

Comparing the salaries and allowances received by the state-run pension fund's ranking officials and employees against that of ordinary government employees covered by the Salary Standardization Law, showed the GSIS' top officials receiving salaries and allowances that were eight to 10 times more than those of their counterparts in other government agencies.

The GSIS president, with a basic pay of P356,979, actually earns much more than the President of the Philippines, whose basic salary is roughly P50,000, said COA director Amorsonia Escarda.

TABLE OF SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF SELECTED GSIS EMPLOYEES

Position	Basic Salary	PERA	ADCOM	RA	TA	Meal Allow	Rice Allow	Provident Fund	Total
Pres. & Gen. Manager	356,979.00	500.00	-	27,000.000	18,000.00	550.00	1,200.00	180,640.55	564,869.55
Exec. Vice Pres.	297,482.00	550.00	-	11,970.00	7,980.00	550.00	1,200.00	133,866.90	453,548.90
Senior Vice Pres.	194,481.00	500.00	-	9,975.00	6,650.00	550.00	1,200.00	87,516.45	300,672.45
Vice Pres.	162,052.00	500.00	-	8,977.00	5,985.00	550.00	1,200.00	72,823.40	252,187.40
Attorney VI	57,356.00	500.00	-	8,479.00	5,652.00	550.00	1,200.00	39,310.20	143,047.20
Engineer II	35,353.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	-	550.00	1,200.00	15,908.85	57,011.85
Clerk IV	20,576.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	-	550.00	1,200.00	9,259.20	35,585.20
Bookbinder II	19,230.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	-	550.00	1,200.00	8,653.50	33,633.50
Utility Foreman	17,972.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	-	550.00	1,200.00	8,087.40	31,809.40
Security Guard II	16,796.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	-	550.00	1,200.00	7,558.20	30,104.20
Courier	15,697.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	-	550.00	1,200.00	7,063.65	28,510.65
Laborer	14,670.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	-	550.00	1,200.00	6,801.50	27,021.50

SOURCE: COA REPORT

According to a study made by the GSIS' resident COA auditor Cristina Dimagiba, GSIS president Winston Garcia receives P564,869.55 a month in basic pay and allowances.

He gets to take home P501,107.55 more than a chairman or a department secretary with a similar grade level of 31.

A department secretary or chair of a government agency, outside of the GSIS, gets to take home P63,762 monthly. This includes his P48,062 basic salary and allowances worth P15,700.

Thus, the GSIS president's take-home pay is roughly nine times bigger than that of his counterpart in other government agencies.

A GSIS executive vice president, with a salary grade of 30, has a total monthly take-home pay of P453,548.90, including his basic salary of P297,482.

Compare this to what a commissioner or department undersecretary outside GSIS, with a similar salary grade, gets—P46,723 monthly, including his basic salary of P34,323.

The difference is P406,825.90.

The GSIS executive vice president thus gets almost 10 times more than his counterpart outside GSIS.

A GSIS senior vice president, with a salary grade of 28, receives a total monthly take-home pay of P300,872.45, including his basic monthly salary of P194,481.

His counterpart outside the GSIS, who is covered by the Salary Standardization Law and holds the position of director IV, gets a monthly take-home pay of P38,255, including a basic salary of P28,955.

The GSIS senior vice-president gets to take home salaries and allowances amounting to P262,617.45, more than what government officials with the same salary grade and position receive.

Even lowly GSIS employees, such as couriers with a salary grade of 4, receive P28,510 in total monthly take-home pay, including a basic pay of P15,697 and allowances.

A government employee outside GSIS covered by the Salary Standardization Law, with a similar salary grade of 4, such as a driver II, only receives a total monthly take-home pay of P8,751, including a basic pay of P7,751 and allowances worth P1,000.

The lowest-paid GSIS employee, a laborer, with a salary grade of 3, gets a total monthly take-home pay of P27,021. Compare this with what a utility worker II with a similar salary grade, but working outside GSIS, gets—a monthly take-home pay of P8,177, including a basic pay of P7,177.

Escarda said the GSIS is exempted from the Salary Standardization Law, based on the GSIS Act of 1997, or Republic Act 8291, which took effect in 1989.

The GSIS exempted itself from the SSL and the Attrition Law—which banned the filling up of vacant government positions—in 1997 through RA 8291 approved by Congress.

The rationale behind the exemption was that it would make the GSIS' management and operation more effective.

Escarda said the COA has already submitted the records on the GSIS' salaries and allowances, including the comparative study that it made, to the Department of Budget and Management, which is investigating the matter.

The Senate blue ribbon committee, headed by Sen. Sergio Osmeña, will start an investigation next week into the alleged irregularities at the GSIS, including its top executives' "highly questionable" benefits and allowances.

Osmeña, who has questioned the appointment of Garcia as GSIS president, citing his lack of experience, said in a press statement yesterday that he would take the issue as well as that of the agency's huge benefits and allowances to the Supreme Court.

Escarda said that even President Macapagal-Arroyo in her Memorandum Order No. 20 has assailed the very high salaries of GSIS executives.

Escarda and Dimagiba have maintained that even though the GSIS might have a law that exempts it from the SSL, its position was still "morally indefensible."

They said the salary and allowance scheme was just one of the abuses at the state-run pension fund.

Another is the GSIS Employees Loyalty Incentive Plan (ELIP), a special GSIS retirement plan that has allowed GSIS officials to get more than double what ordinary government employees covered by the Salary Standardization Law get in retirement benefits.

Dimagiba has questioned the plan, which resulted in the filing of graft charges against former GSIS president Carlos Arellano and other former officials.

Estradas want to be no-shows

BY DONNA S. CUETO AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

INDICTED ex-president Joseph Estrada and his co-accused son, Jinggoy, have petitioned not to be made to appear in court on Monday, the start of the trial at the Sandiganbayan of the plunder case against them.

The Estradas' lawyers yesterday asked the court to recall the "produce order," or summons dated Sept. 27, directing the Philippine National Police to bring the Estradas and another co-accused, Edward Serapio, to the court at 1 p.m. on Monday.

They cited two manifestations filed by the Estradas on their waiver of appearance and identification, a right accorded those charged in court.

At the Supreme Court, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto moved to block another petition by Estrada lawyers seeking a "status quo order" from the high court to cancel the scheduled start of the plunder trial on Oct. 1.

Desierto said the defense motion was part of the defense lawyers' moves to further delay the proceedings.

Defense lawyers had sought the cancellation of the trial, citing the inclusion of businessman Jaime Dichaves in the plunder complaint would affect the rights of the accused ex-president.

They argued that a status quo order was imperative in view of another pending defense petition questioning the constitutionality of the plunder law, which the SC has yet to resolve.

The administration of justice "cannot take a backseat to the convenience of Joseph Estrada and his lawyers," said Desierto in his 12-page "opposition" which asked the high tribunal to allow the Sandiganbayan to start the plunder trial on Oct. 1.

He said the speedy trial of Estrada would save time and even benefit the ousted ex-president and his co-accused who are in detention.

The anti-graft court has scheduled the trial on Oct. 1, 17 and 18 "and every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday thereafter."

For the start of trial on Monday, the prosecution yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division to summon two prosecution witnesses, Belle Corp. executive Willy Ng Ocier and former Social Security System chair Carlos Arellano.

Also yesterday, the Sandiganbayan refused to indict Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson in the plunder case, citing the immunity granted to him by the Ombudsman in exchange for his testimony against Estrada.

In a resolution issued late in the afternoon, the 3rd Division rejected a previous motion filed by Estrada asking the court to implead Singson in the plunder charge.

In their manifestation filed yesterday, the Estradas not only waived their appearance on Monday, but also in subsequent hearing dates before the Sandiganbayan, as "every trip here (is) always a very expensive and, in our view, needless exercise."

Lawyer Rene Saguisag said the attendance of the Estradas in court on Monday served "no public purpose."

NEWSBRIEFS

ARMM deadline: Oct. 2

CANDIDATES for elective positions in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao have only until Oct. 2 to file their certificates of candidacy for the elections set on Nov. 26, the Commission on Elections said yesterday. Velma Cinco, Comelec director for education and information, said candidates for governor and vice governor shall file their candidacies with the regional election director of either Region 9 or 12, while those seeking positions in the regional legislative assembly may file with the provincial election supervisors. The ARMM elections will be held in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and in Basilan and Marawi City, two areas which recently voted to become past of ARMM in a plebiscite held last Aug. 14. The campaign period starts on Oct. 12 and end on Nov. 24. *Gerald Lacuarta*

Woman trader rescued

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Police rescued a businesswoman after about 10 months of captivity by the Abu Sayyaf. Marilyn Tiu of Alicia, Zamboanga del Sur was rescued in Patikul, Sulu yesterday by elements of the 9th regional police, according to Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon, police regional director for Western Mindanao. Dizon said Tiu was rescued around 9 in the morning after lawmen overpowered two of her escorts in a "daring operation." Tiu was turned over to her family, but authorities said she could be called again for debriefing. Dizon said Tiu looked haggard but healthy.

Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Sick RP seamen rescued

PERTH, Australia—Two sick Filipino seamen were airlifted to safety by helicopter from a New Zealand fishing trawler off the Western Australia coast Friday, a search and rescue spokesperson said. The helicopter from Pearce Royal Australian Air Force Base defied unfavorable weather to pluck the men from the 67-meter Will Watch, about 230 kilometers west of Perth in the Indian Ocean, he said. A 40-year-old crewman had severe stomach pains and a 43-year-old seaman had back and head injuries received in a fall from a ladder. The men have not been named. The patients were taken to St John of God Hospital in Perth in the afternoon. The two men had been waiting for medical help for a week. The vessel was 2,600 km from Perth when the first man developed stomach pains and the trawler broadcast an international call for help. The pair could not be airlifted to hospital until the trawler was within helicopter range of the Australian mainland. *AFP*

Dengue alert still on

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday warned against complacency in the country's campaign against dengue fever, saying that the rains that continue to pour sporadically in parts of the country could result in new cases. Dayrit made the call as dengue cases nationwide continued to drop over the past few weeks. "Our efforts should be sustained since we can expect that cases might increase again. The rains continue to come and therefore there'd would still be breeding places of mosquitoes," Dayrit said. The *aedes egypti* mosquito that causes dengue breeds in clean pools of water that usually accumulates when it rains. As of Sept. 21, there were already 15,641 dengue fever cases admitted to hospitals nationwide. There have been 118 deaths. *Norman Bordadora*

4 women in PMA top 20

FOUR women made it to the top 20 examinees in the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) entrance examination held on Aug. 26, 2001. PMA spokesperson Marine Capt. Edgard A. Arevalo said only 5.69 percent or 1,166 out of 20,500 examinees passed the highly competitive examinations. Topping this year's entrance examination is Michael N. Gotong of La Trinidad, Benguet, followed by Romeo Isaiah M. Aspera of San Pedro, Laguna. Ma. Triska Monica B. Garrido of Quezon City placed third, Jean Paul A. Sarte of Quezon City, fourth, and Fredric Andrews P. Ocampo, fifth. The other applicants who made it to the top 20 are: Paolo Giovanni M. Gochingco, 6th Abram R. Taguinod, 7th; Jefferson DL Ibay, 8th; Jovert Irvin C. Vertulfo, 9th; Alvin C. Saladino 10th; James Kirsten T. Melad, 11th; Ermin B. Soloren, 12th; Ma. Josefa Melanie P. Mendoza, 13th; Emmanuel Rico C. Corpuz, 14th; Marlon C. Dawas, 15th; Elma G. Hagos, 16th; Khalil R. Thaking, 17th; Clarito I. Corpuz Jr., 18th; Angelica M. Valdez, 19th; and Archie C. Grapa, 20th. The second step to the Presidential appointment to the PMA Class of 2006 will be series of stringent medical and dental examination and a battery of psychological testing. Only about 350, or roughly 30 percent of the number who will pass the second screening, will get the appointment.

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Abus continue to get arms from Osama–AFP

OSAMA bin Laden, the main suspect in deadly terrorist attacks in the United States, continues to supply arms, training and other logistics support to the Abu Sayyaf rebel group, the Philippine military chief said yesterday.

"There is definitely this link," chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva told AFP in an interview.

"It's not only gut feelings but I really feel certain that they couldn't have operated this long and they couldn't have sustained themselves for so long a time if not for the material, leadership and training support from Bin Laden's al-Qaida network," he explained.

It is the first time that a high ranking Filipino official has confirmed that the Muslim rebel group and millionaire Bin Laden's al-Qaida network were still maintaining their links which were established in the early 1990s.

After the Sept. 11 terror attacks on US installations, for which Bin Laden is the prime suspect, government officials had downplayed any talk of recent links between the two groups.

It had been thought that the Saudi millionaire cut off links after the Abu Sayyaf degenerated into a kidnap-for-ransom gang.

Villanueva said recent kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas bore "the fingerprints of the al-Qaida organization of Osama bin Laden, which will not stop at anything.

"Beheading innocent victims, bombings and even raping of innocent Christian women—they want to further ethnic religious divide in order to further sow disunity and terror," Villanueva said.

The Abu Sayyaf, whose name means "Bearer of the Sword," has beheaded many of its kidnap victims to press demands ranging from hard cash to a separate Islamic state in the southern third of the country.

The group, founded in the early 1990s by a young firebrand preacher Abdurajak Janjalani who reportedly was trained in Afghanistan, is currently holding at least two Americans and 16 Filipinos hostage in Basilan island. *AFP*

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Filipinos in Belgium living in fear, says priest

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA AND ROCKY NAZARENO

FILIPINOS in Belgium are living in fear following last week's dawn raids on some of their homes by Brussels police ostensibly looking for illegal immigrants.

Fr. Apollo de Guzman, a Filipino chaplain in Belgium, said Filipinos there were now "afraid to make too much noise, lest they be targeted next."

"*Mga Pinoy dito ay natatakot na ngayon,*" ("Filipinos here are now scared") De Guzman told Migrante International in Manila.

Leo Legaspi, Migrante chair, said the Department of Foreign Affairs' failure to protest the actions of the Brussels police has given (overseas) Filipinos more reason to feel threatened, even in their own homes.

"The DFA should protect the rights of overseas Pinoys, undocumented or not. When these workers remit much-needed dollars to our country, we don't make that distinction so why should Vice President Teofisto Guingona now deny the undocumented workers their human rights?" Legaspi said.

Guingona, who is concurrent foreign secretary, had said Thursday there was no need to demand an apology from Belgium for the detention of the Filipinos because there had been no clear violation of their human rights.

Legaspi said there are approximately 8,000 Filipinos in Belgium, about half of whom are undocumented. Many Filipinos are employed in the service industry there as drivers, domestics and restaurant and hotel workers.

Legaspi said De Guzman told him the detained Filipinos—15 in all according to the Philippine Embassy, 30 according to Migrante—may have been "sampled," a term used by Brussels police for raids on immigrant communities where a number of people are rounded up for interrogation.

The Philippine Embassy in Brussels said the police "inquiry" was in line with the alien regularization program of the Belgian government. Other foreign nationals reportedly also picked up by police were Pakistanis, Albanians, Algerians, Poles, Spaniards and Portuguese.

But De Guzman said Brussels police were really looking for terrorists.

The Filipinos who were rounded up told Migrante the police asked them about their arrival in the country and their sources of income. The police reportedly confiscated their cellular phones and address books.

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Macapagal supports P25-pay hike–ECOP

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has endorsed a P25 wage hike formula, and has braced government for possible protests from militant labor, the president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippine said here yesterday.

Addressing the 10th North Philippines Area Business Conference at the Baguio Country Club, Donald Dee said the P25 wage increase slated for application in Metro Manila in November, would be the benchmark for the regional wage boards.

The wage increase is far off the P125 rate sought by militant labor groups.

Businessmen from Cagayan Valley, the Ilocos region and the Cordillera were "not too happy" about the new wage increase.

They asked ECOP to consider a revenue-sharing arrangement instead of an outright wage increase.

"This is the kind of situation where a wage hike will kill more than the 1,300 firms which the labor department expects to close this month due to the crisis," a Baguio businessman said.

Dee said ECOP "was not pleased about a P25 hike either." But he explained that a wage increase now "would be more logical" as impending international recession could further deplete business revenues.

He said the fundamental wage-setting law already discriminates against 91 percent of businesses, whose employees number less than 10 people.

74,000 OFWs at risk

AROUND 74,000 overseas Filipino workers in nine Middle East countries are in imminent danger should the US attack Afghanistan, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Undersecretary for migrant affairs Merlin Magallona said they might get caught in the middle of Muslim reprisals sparked by the US action.

"The danger might come from the upsurge of Islamic fundamentalism in say, Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia especially if the US attack (on Afghanistan) will result in civilian damage," Magallona told a news briefing Thursday night.

Magallona, who heads the department's "crisis committee," said that under their "worst-case scenario" they would have to repatriate 74,000 OFWs in nine countries where Muslim fundamentalist groups are deemed strong.

These are Pakistan, Iran, Libya, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and some parts of Saudi Arabia.

At a conservative estimate of $1,000 price per plane ticket, their repatriation would cost the government around $74 million or P3.7 billion. *Dona Pazzibugan*

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File case, Nani dares foes

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

"I AM not an extortionist. If anyone has a claim of extortion against me they should file a case against me."

With that, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday dared his detractors to file an extortion case against him following reports he had threatened to file criminal cases against two businessmen unless they gave him money.

Perez had allegedly threatened to include the two businessmen, believed to be cronies of ousted President Joseph Estrada, in the plunder case against the deposed leader.

Perez said this was a demolition job against him to coincide with his confirmation before the Commission on Appointments in order to force his replacement.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday came to the defense of Perez saying she wished "that he will be able to overcome the harassment he is now undergoing."

Perez was accused by opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson of having a $20-million account in a Hong Kong bank purportedly extorted from Estrada cronies Jaime Dichaves and Dante Tan.

Government prosecutors are reportedly planning to include Dichaves in the plunder case against Estrada which goes to trial on Oct. 1.

Tan, on the other hand, is reportedly being investigated by the Ombudsman for possible inclusion in the same case.

Lacson aired the charge against Perez, who is pursuing a host of cases against the former police chief turned senator.

"Please do not engage in a media war. File a case against me and I will meet you in court," Perez said.

The Ombudsman himself does not want to get caught in the middle of the word war between Perez and Lacson.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said he saw no need to order an investigation into Lacson's claims that Perez had a $20-million account at the Coutts Bank in Hong Kong.

Desierto told reporters his office was not inclined to investigate Perez even if two witnesses were reportedly willing to testify against him.

"We need corroborative evidence, not just testimonial ones," he said.

"We can't rely on utterances in a case like this," he said, adding that Lacson himself has not asked him to investigate Perez. *With Juliet L. Javellana*

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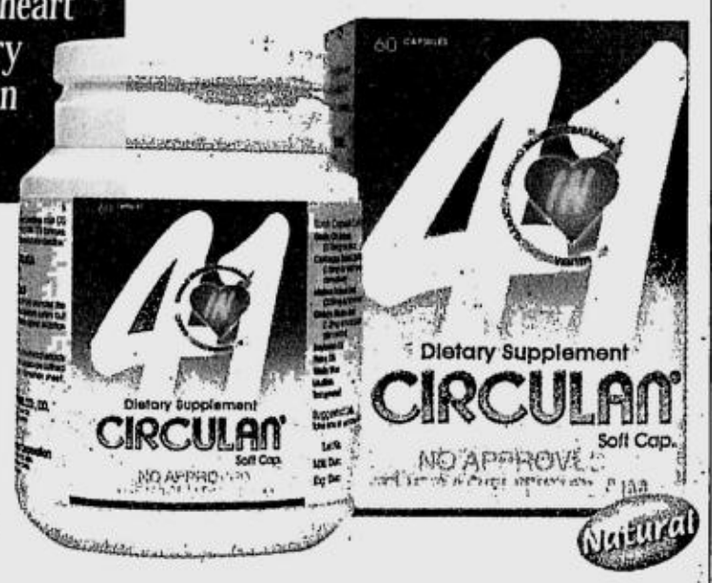

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Gov't Oks PAL fare increase

PHILIPPINE Airlines yesterday got government authority to increase its international and domestic fares by $6 and P300 per flight sector effective Oct. 1, 2001.

In a statement, PAL, said it is still awaiting approval of similar petitions from aviation authorities in foreign countries where it operates.

The Civil Aeronautics Board's decision authorizing PAL to collect an insurance surcharge of $6 for international flights and P300 for domestic flights enables the flag carrier to buy the required coverage in the aviation insurance market at much higher premiums.

With PAL's renewed access to commercial insurers, the Philippine government's guarantee to provide incremental protection for any war-related third-party liability incurred by the airline now becomes unnecessary.

The government had earlier pledged to fill the gap when aviation insurers sharply reduced their coverage of war-related third-party risk, which threatened to ground the fleets of local carriers.

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US troops scouring Afghanistan since Sept. 13

(From page A1)

sia and Tajikistan to share additional intelligence information to help them pin down the elusive terrorist.

"Unfortunately, we have told the United States that we do not have any 'real time' information on Osama Bin Laden or al-Qaida," the report quoted a Pakistani diplomat as saying. "We are trying to locate him but right now, are unable to."

Pentagon spokesperson Victoria Clarke refused to comment on the front-page story. The Pentagon was not making any comment on operations, she said.

Officials have said the US "war on terrorism" would be an unconventional battle in which commandos could play a key role.

Messenger

In a new bid to break the deadlock over Bin Laden, a delegation of high-ranking Pakistani religious leaders and government officials arrived in Afghanistan on Friday for talks with the ruling Taliban, AP reported out of Islamabad yesterday.

The 16-member delegation's visit came a day after the Taliban delivered a message from Muslim clerics to Bin Laden, asking him to leave the country voluntarily.

It was the first indication from the Taliban that they knew where Bin Laden was, or how to communicate with him.

Taliban Information Minister Qudrutullah Jamal said on Thursday that he believed the edict from the clerics had been delivered in person, but no reply had been received.

"The edict had to be delivered by a messenger," Jamal told Reuters by telephone from Kabul.

"It's not like we can pick up the phone and talk to Osama, or fax a message to him. He has no such facilities, so the message had to be sent through a messenger who probably took some time to find him," Jamal said.

"We believe that by now he has found Osama and delivered the *fatwa* (edict) to him," he said.

"I have no reason to believe that Osama has left Afghanistan. He is still here," Jamal added.

Asked about the nature of Bin Laden's reply to the edict, Jamal said no response had yet arrived: "We don't know yet because the messenger hasn't returned."

Jesse Jackson

The Taliban ambassador in neighboring Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, accompanied the Pakistani delegation to Kandahar, the Taliban's home base. The team was expected to fly back Friday night.

A second delegation, consisting of clerics from Pakistan's four main Islamic parties, said it hoped to travel to Afghanistan in coming days to help resolve the standoff between the United States and the Taliban.

But even while it keeps up fiery calls for a jihad, or holy war, if America attacks, the Taliban opened the door Thursday to the possibility of outside mediation, saying they would be willing to receive US civil rights leader Jesse Jackson as an envoy.

Jackson said he was invited by the Taliban; the Taliban said it was Jackson who approached them, but they were willing to accept his offer to "mediate between the Taliban and America."

Secretary of State Colin Powell said Jackson was free to travel, but said he did not think such a trip would accomplish anything. And Francesc Vendrell, head of the UN special mission for Afghanistan, told reporters in Islamabad: "I'm afraid that when it comes to the issue of Bin Laden and the al-Qaida network, the time for negotiations with the Taliban on this issue is past."

Thwarted attacks

Quoting officials, AP reported that about two dozen arrests have been made across Europe of people suspected of being involved in the planning of the thwarted attacks in Paris and Belgium.

Authorities have evidence the attack targeted a Nato installation and an American diplomat in Brussels, the officials said.

The arrests have resulted from a global manhunt led by the FBI and aided by CIA intelligence that has produced dozens of raids and searches in the last two weeks.

Information about the attacks in Paris and Brussels first emerged this summer, well before the Sept. 11 hijackings, when authorities captured an alleged associate of Bin Laden and he began cooperating, officials said.

The alleged Bin Laden associate, Djamel Begal, provided authorities with information about possible targets and the names of others who might be involved, officials said.

Those arrested include about two dozen people detained in Spain, France, Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium. Several other suspected collaborators remain at large, the officials said.

Since the first wave of arrests, authorities have begun to make links between collaborators in different countries.

"We contacted Belgium and said, 'Hey, the guy you arrested was in Spain on such and such a date and met with these guys," Madrid Police Chief Juan Cotino explained. "That's how the link emerged."

Far more damage

The thwarted attacks on Paris and Belgium illustrate the current reality facing US authorities—that Bin Laden-backed terrorists intended to inflict far more damage on US interests in the coming months.

FBI agents have gathered evidence and testimony—some sketchy, some detailed—suggesting several Middle Eastern men were in various stages of planning, training or exploring targets for additional attacks on US soil.

Law enforcement and government officials caution that some evidence about the future plots is circumstantial at best, but it nonetheless compelled authorities to issue a series of warning in recent days, including that:

- Crop-dusters might be used to spray chemical or biological agents.
- Tanker trucks loaded with lethal poisons could be commandeered.
- US power plants and water supplies could be in danger.

One official said writings and literature seized in some raids suggested the terrorists appeared to have a motive beyond mass casualties—paralyzing the US economy.

Successes

In secret testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee back in February, CIA Director George Tenet detailed numerous recent attacks that had been thwarted, officials said.

Before he testified in closed session, Tenet hinted at the scope of the attack plans. "We and our allies have scored some important successes against terrorist groups and their plans," he said.

A senior intelligence official said scores of terrorist activities—from meetings to bombings—were thwarted or disrupted over the last few years without public notice. One that has been public was a foiled plan to bomb the Los Angeles Airport during the millennium celebrations.

In most cases, terrorists were simply intercepted at locations here and abroad and stopped on immigration technicalities before they could carry out plans that had been intercepted by US or allied intelligence, the official said.

"There have been in recent years scores of terrorist attacks thwarted or pre-empted, some long before someone gets close to lighting the fuse," the official said.

The official declined to give specifics, citing a desire to keep terrorists from knowing how the United States learned of the activities. ***Reports from Reuters and AP***

Osama made Bill poorer by $7 billion

(From page A1)

billion and Steven Ballmer barely held on to his berth on the list of 10 richest Americans after losing $2.5 billion.

The wallets of the richest Americans are substantially thinner now following the Sept. 11 terror attacks, which have sent the US stock market into a tailspin and undercut consumer confidence, according to a survey made public here.

Some of the US business moguls lost more than a third of their net worth, as American consumers postponed recreation and travel, the survey of 400 richest Americans released Thursday found.

The study, published annually by Forbes Magazine, shows that practically all top US business leaders lost hundreds of millions of dollars as a result of the terror acts, which have jolted the nation and deeply affected its psyche.

The list of those who lost the most also includes Micky Arison, owner of Carnival Cruise Lines, the largest cruise company in the world, which in its heyday enjoyed annual sales of $3.8 billion.

The attacks cost him $1.7 billion, or 37 percent of his portfolio, as jittery vacationers flocked to cancel reservations for fear of terrorist acts against cruise ships, according to the study.

As of Monday, Arison was worth $2.9 billion, down from $4.6 billion in late August.

Billionaire financier Kirk Kerkorian saw his assets dwindle by $1.9 billion, or nearly 36 percent, because a significant portion of his money is invested in various Las Vegas casino resorts, including MGM Mirage and MGM Grand.

The US travel industry, which includes airlines, hotels and resorts, has emerged as the main casualty of the attacks, in which terrorists used hijacked planes to ram them into the buildings.

Even the stock of automaker DaimlerChrysler, in which Kerkorian had significant holdings, lost ground last year.

The confluence of these events left him with just $3.4 billion in his pocket, down from $5.3 billion in late August.

John Willard Marriott, whose father began his career selling root beer in the late 1920s and subsequently built one of the most successful hotel chains in the world, shared a similar fate.

His loss amounted to $410 million, or 34.2 percent of his portfolio, as Marriott stock tumbled in the wake of the attacks, the survey showed.

Marriott's brother, Richard Edwin, fared slightly better. His loss equaled $400 million or 28.6 percent of his fortune.

Retail trade, meanwhile, appeared to emerge as one of the "safest" investments under the circumstances.

Helen Walton, heiress of the Wal-Mart retail store fortune, lost only one billion, or 5.7 percent of her net worth, amid plummeting equity values.

Her company operates about 4,500 discount stores around the world, with combined annual sales of $191 billion.

As usual, the list of the 400 richest people in the United States was led by software giant Microsoft founder Bill Gates, although he too was struck by the stock market carnage.

Gates, who was worth $54 billion before the attacks, is believed to have lost $7.2 billion since Sept. 11, according to the survey.

US stocks on average lost about 15 percent of their value in the week following the strikes.

Investor Warren Buffett, whose holdings range from soft drinks to insurance, ranked second, with $33.2 billion before the attacks and $30.4 billion after.

Another Microsoft co-founder, Paul Allen, was in third place. His personal assets were valued at $28.2 billion in late August and $24.2 billion in late September.

Here is the list of 10 richest Americans as ranked by Forbes Magazine's annual survey. All figures, in billions of US dollars, reflect their net worth before and after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and subsequent stock market slump.

1. William Gates, Microsoft—54 (before); 46.8 (after)
2. Warren Buffet, financier—33.2 (before); 30.4 (after)
3. Paul Allen, Microsoft—28.2 (before); 24.2 (after)
4. Lawrence Ellison, Oracle—21.9 (before); 18.5 (after)
5. Jim Walton, Wal-Mart—17.5 (before); loss unknown
6. John Walton, Wal-Mart—17.5 (before); loss unknown
7. Robson Walton, Wal-Mart—17.5 (before); loss unknown
8. Alice Walton, Wal-Mart—17.5 (before); loss unknown
9. Helen Walton, Wal-Mart—17.5 (before); 16.5 (after)
10. Steven Ballmer, Microsoft—15.1 (before); 12.6 (after) *AFP*

Bush urges . . .

(From page A1)

"They're going to be like any other passenger, but Americans will know that there are more of them, and our crews will know there are more of them. And the terrorists will know there are more of them," the president said.

Bush's plan calls for the federal government to pay for some 4,000 to 5,000 uniformed members of the National Guard to be deployed at the nation's 420 airports to ensure security during the four-to-six-month implementation period.

Bush said he would work with lawmakers to put federal agents in control of passenger and bag screening and all safety inspections.

$500-million aircraft security

He added that he would create a $500-million fund to enhance security aboard aircraft, including stronger cockpit doors and video cameras in the cabin, and would invest in technology to enable planes to be landed by remote control.

The first step toward federalizing air travel security is unprecedented and comes despite Bush's earlier hesitation to allow the federal government to take charge of baggage and passenger checks at airports.

But a group of leading opposition Democrats, who had argued for full federalization of airport security, said they doubted the plan "goes far enough."

Besides the $500-milion fund for aircraft security, Bush has signed into law a $15-billion rescue package for ailing airlines.

The package, which includes $5 billion in cash and $10 billion in loan guarantees, comes after major carriers announced 85,000 layoffs amid a sharp decline in passengers.

Consumer exuberance

Americans are being reminded that the US economy, badly shaken by the attacks and teetering near recession, could do with some consumer exuberance.

In New York, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani set the tone for the nation days ago, stressing that one thing the bruised city needs is for citizens, "the best shoppers in the world," to return to restaurants, Broadway shows and shops.

In that vein, Miami-Dade County Mayor Alex Penelas has proclaimed the coming weekend "Freedom Weekend." He wants to see the area's more than 2 million inhabitants enjoying time at local hotels, restaurants, attractions and shops.

Penelas and his family plan a mini-vacation, spending the weekend at a hotel on Miami Beach, where deals are sweet as hoteliers struggle to fill empty beds. "Go out and contribute to the economy," Penelas told a news conference.

"As my wife said, it has never been more patriotic to go shopping."

Miami, like other US cities feeling the ripple effects of slumping air travel and tourism, could do with some "shopping for America."

The city's Dadeland Mall, one of the busiest retail outlets in the country with more than 200 shops, was nearly deserted on Thursday morning. On weekday mornings, although locals are at work, there is usually a steady flow of foreign shoppers, most from Latin America.

Rosina Rios, running a cookies and coffee stall at Dadeland, said business had plunged since Sept. 11.

She thought it was both because of the sharp drop in foreign tourists and because people were worried about spending amid fears of recession and job cuts.

"People are scared to spend right now," Rios said, adding that with business so slow, she too worried about losing her job.

Nearby, Arelis Barcelo said sales at the small perfume store where she works had fallen from a normal $600 to $700 a day to about $200 to $300 a day in the last two weeks.

"There are no tourists and last night, from 3:30 in the afternoon until we closed at 9:30, there was not one single sale," Barcelo lamented, adding her store could well be in danger of going under if the situation does not improve soon.

Oriental rugs unsold

Long a mark of middle class affluence and sophistication in America, rugs from Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Middle East are now piling up in stores unsold.

Whether part of a backlash against all things tinged with Arab and Islamic culture after the Sept. 11 attacks or a victim of economic slowdown, rug dealers in New York are worried about a serious slowdown in their business.

They also worry that, as the most visible representatives of the Muslim world in mainstream America, they'll be the most likely to suffer from a backlash.

Sen. Bob Graham, a Florida Democrat, stopped short of a call to the mall, but said this week that everyone could play a role in bolstering the economy by getting on with their lives and "living like Americans."

'It's duty of Arabs to own nukes'

(From page A1)

Middle East in abbreviated form on Al-Jazeera, a popular Arabic satellite program.

The book, "Bin Laden, Al-Jazeera—and I," by Jamal Abdul Latif Ismail, has been snapped up by Arabic readers since he was named the No. 1 suspect in the Sept. 11 suicide bombings in the United States.

It has sold out across bookstores in the Middle East, prompting some readers to borrow and photocopy it from friends.

Asked about the freezing of his assets, Bin Laden said that even though the United States has pressured several countries to "rob us of our rights," he and his followers have survived.

"We feel that the whole universe is with us and money is like a passing shadow. We urge Muslims to spend their money on jihad and especially on the movements that have devoted themselves to the killing of Jews and the Crusaders," he said.

A Pakistani newspaper reported yesterday that Bin Laden said the latest US attempts to freeze the bank accounts of his al-Qaida network will have no impact on how it is run. "It will not make any difference," Bin Laden was quoted as saying in an interview in the Urdu-language newspaper Ummat, the veracity of which could not be confirmed.

"By the grace of God, al-Qaida has more then three different alternative financial networks."

"It is being run around the world by well-educated youth. We do not have a few hundred or a few thousand but hundreds and thousands of highly educated youth, who were well aware of all these things and know the alternatives."

The Karachi newspaper said it had delivered its questions to Bin Laden and received written responses through Taliban officials.

In a tent

Bin Laden spoke to Ismail in a tent in mountainous southern Afghanistan four months after the August 1998 bombing of two US embassies in Africa, an attack in which he is also a suspect.

Bin Laden began the interview with personal notes, saying he was born 45 years ago, in the Muslim year of 1377, in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

Bin Laden's father, Muhammad, who was born in the Yemeni region of Hadramawt, was a prominent construction magnate who built the major mosques in Mecca and Medina and undertook repairs on Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock. He died when Bin Laden was 10.

After getting a degree in economics at a university in Jiddah, Bin Laden joined his father's company before beginning his road to jihad.

Even before US President George W. Bush mentioned the word "crusade" in describing the anti-terror campaign, Bin Laden was using that term to describe alleged US intentions against Muslims.

"There's a campaign that's part of the ongoing Crusader-Jewish wars against Islam," Bin Laden told Ismail.

Asked about his 1998 edict urging Muslims to target not only the US military, but also American civilians, Bin Laden said only American men were the target.

"Every American man is an enemy whether he is among the fighters who fight us directly or among those who pay taxes."

Bin Laden claimed Western attacks on Arabs, such as the British-US bombings of Iraq, were directed by Israelis and Jews who have infiltrated the White House, the Defense Department, the State Department and the CIA.

Views

His views on other issues:

- On whether he's ready to stand trial in an Islamic court: "We are ready at any time for a legitimate court . . . If the plaintiff is the United States of America, we at the same time will sue it for many things . . . it committed in the land of Muslims."
- Bin Laden denied he was behind the 1998 embassy bombings, but acknowledged he "has incited (Muslims) to wage jihad."
- On the US-backed fight against the Soviet presence in Afghanistan: "Those who waged jihad in Afghanistan . . . knew they could, with a few RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades), a few anti-tank mines and a few Kalashnikovs, destroy the biggest military myth humanity has ever known. The biggest military machine was smashed and with it vanished from our minds what's called the superpower. We believe America is much weaker than (Russia), and we have heard a lot from our brethren who fought in Somalia about the cowardliness of the US soldier, the weakness of the US soldier . . . ."
- Asked about the money the United States put on his head, Bin Laden said: "Because America worships money, it believes that people think that way too. By Allah, I haven't changed a single man (guard) after these reports."
- Bin Laden claimed the United States has carried out the "biggest theft in history" by buying oil from Gulf countries at low prices. According to Bin Laden, a barrel of oil today should cost $144. Based on that calculation, he said, the Americans have stolen $36 trillion from Muslims and they owe each member of the faith $30,000.
- His message to the world: "Regimes and the media want to strip us of our manhood. We believe we are men, Muslim men. We should be the ones defending the greatest house in the world, the blessed Kaaba . . . and not the female, both Jewish and Christian, American soldiers." Bin Laden was referring to the US troops that have deployed in Saudi Arabia since 1990 following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.
- "Our goal is to liberate the land of Islam from the infidels and establish the law of Allah." *AP*

Laundering bill needs amendments, says Gloria

(From page A1)

be imposed. But if we debate and debate until we have a perfect bill the measure will not be ready by Sept. 30. Then the sanctions will start," Ms Macapagal said at a press conference after the Clark airport was renamed the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in honor of her late father.

Last night, the bicameral committee was still hammering a consolidated anti-money laundering measure at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas so that the Senate and the House of Representatives could ratify it today.

As of 9 p.m., the committee agreed to expand the coverage of unlawful activities to include plunder, kidnapping, graft and corruption, drug trafficking, hijacking, child prostitution and illegal recruitment.

"It will take us again until the wee hours of the morning but there will be an anti-laundering law. The only question is, in what form," Senate President Franklin Drilon said.

The President noted that Russia and Nauru had passed similar measures, which the FATF said should be amended.

Money laundering is the "cleansing" of funds raised from illegal activities like drug trafficking, kidnapping and racketeering.

The FATF, an anti-money laundering body set up by the Group of Seven industrialized countries, believes that about $1.5 trillion in dirty funds were being laundered yearly in countries that have lax policies against money laundering.

The FATF had given the Philippines until Sunday to outlaw money laundering or face sanctions from its members.

Drilon said the President was expected to sign the measure either today or Sunday.

"I am confident that we (Congress) would be able to ratify the bicameral conference committee report and the President can sign it at the latest on Monday," he told reporters.

But critics said the bills had been so watered down that they would fall short of the FATF's demands.

"If we pass the House version, it will not pass the FATF's standards," said Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno.

Drilon agreed, saying that the House version was less accommodating in terms of allowing access to suspicious deposits.

Shortly after midnight Friday, the Senate passed a bill outlawing money laundering, a day after the House of Representatives approved its version.

The bills allow for the examination of bank accounts to seek ill-gotten gains from specified crimes. Present laws make it very difficult for bank accounts to be investigated.

Main difference

Drilon said the main difference between the Senate and the House version was in the coverage of crimes.

The House version limited the scope of crimes to graft, kidnap for ransom and drug trafficking, and for bank accounts containing deposits of at least P5 million.

The Senate version added robbery, extortion, illegal gambling, piracy, smuggling, large-scale theft, swindling, cyber-crimes and terrorism.

The Senate also lowered the minimum deposit that could be probed to P3 million.

The Senate version called on banks and other "covered institution" to report to an anti-money laundering council suspiciously large financial transactions.

The council or the Monetary Board can issue freeze order for a period not exceeding 20 days on bank accounts determined to contain laundered money.

If the Monetary Board or council wants to extend the freeze order or to examine the bank account, it needs a court order.

"We have to balance the police power of the state and the individual's freedom and the confidentiality of the account," Drilon said.

Drilon said the measure crafted by the Senate addressed the concerns of the international community and of depositors.

Camacho, Buenaventura confident

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who both sat at the bicameral meeting, were confident that the final version would meet the standards of the FATF.

"There is a significant relaxation of the deposit secrecy law. I think it will pass the FATF although there may be a need to explain some of the provisions to them," Camacho said.

But he said parts of the law might have to be explained in detail to the FATF.

He was referring to Section 9 of the House bill, which would require a court order before the implementing agency could peek into suspicious deposits.

Section 8 of the Senate version also called for a court order that may be obtained "ex parte" or unilaterally.

Bangko Sentral lawyer Juan de Zuñiga said there was no need to inform the other party about the court order, making it easy to obtain.

Buenaventura said both the House and the Senate versions satisfied the five essential points being required by the FATF.

These include the criminalization of money laundering, an efficient reporting requirement that will compel banks to report suspicious transactions, an implementing body that will ensure that the spirit of the law is being carried out, an improved access to suspicious deposits, and a provision for international cooperation.

Buenaventura explained that the Philippines would not be immediately taken out of the FATF watchlist while the law was being evaluated. The important thing, he said, was that the country would be spared from additional sanctions.

He noted that foreign banks had started making Philippine transactions more difficult. Each account is being scrutinized, leading to costly delays.

Attending the bicameral conference committee last night were Senators Francisco Pangilinan, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Renato Cayetano, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Joker Arroyo, Panfilo Lacson, Serge Osmeña and Manny Villar.

The House members include Representatives Jaime Lopez, Imee Marcos and Teodoro "Teddyboy" Locsin Jr.

"This is a heroic act for our lawmakers. I can't believe it has gotten this far," Camacho said.

Metro folk . . .

(From page A1)

ing Filipino troops to areas of conflict. They said the government should send a medical contingent instead and just allow the US to use the former military bases in the country for their war preparations.

Only 17 percent favored sending Filipino soldiers to battle alongside American troops.

Another 17 percent said they did not want the government to get involved in any US-led actions against terrorists at all.

The survey findings were released yesterday by Pulse Asia Inc., which polled 300 Metro Manilans aged 18 years and over, on Sept. 22-26.

The survey, which allowed multiple answers, sought to determine public opinion on US and Philippine government actions following the terrorist attacks on the United States and how government preparedness to meet terrorist threats was perceived, among other questions.

The survey had a 6-percent margin of error.

"While there were significant hawkish sentiments underpinning the action preferences of Metro Manilans . . ., the weightier public sentiment favored a more deliberate, internationally coordinated response in establishing responsibility for the acts and punishing the guilty parties," Pulse Asia said.

"This liberal non-hawkish sentiment was more clearly manifested when a military response was explicitly considered as a possible government reaction to terrorism," it added.

According to Pulse Asia, a huge majority of respondents—78 percent—favored some form of Philippine government participation in the international campaign against terrorism.

However, only 51 percent within this group advocated the use of military force.

A large percentage, 34 percent, chose to help eradicate terrorism and support any United Nations decision, including the use of military force.

Another 17 percent chose to help eradicate terrorism and support any US move, including the use of military force.

Twenty-seven percent said no to the use of military force despite expressing support for the eradication of terrorism and US and UN moves.

When asked the best way to deal with terrorists, 62 percent said "eradicating them but only through lawful means," while 14 percent chose to "eradicate them even if this meant using extra-legal means."

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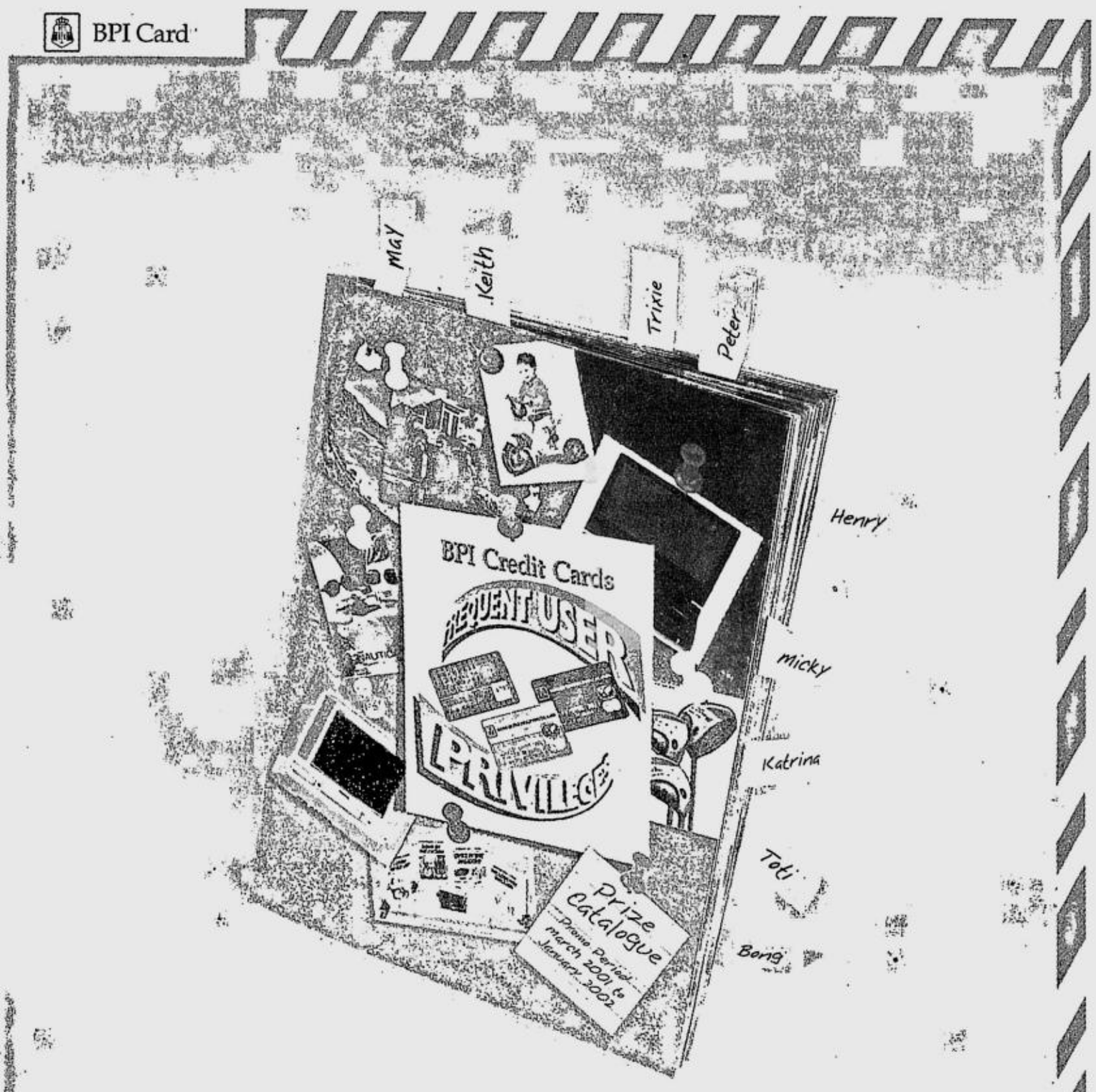

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Wrong reason

THE MORIBUND plan to establish a national identification card is staging a resurrection by riding piggy-back on the bandwagon of the international coalition to combat terrorism.

The ID plan is not one of the measures contained in the administration's "14 pillars of policy and action" in support of the Unites States-led battle against terrorists, but President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo saw a chance to throw it into the anti-terrorist package.

EDITORIALS

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said, in a follow-up to the announcement of the 14-point package, that the President had made up her mind and was now supporting the plan. The justification was that the ID system would not only facilitate government transactions but could also be "part of the anti-terrorism campaign." Tiglao said preparations for installing the ID system had begun two months ago when proposals were made to combine the computer facilities of the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System and the Land Transportation Office as the nucleus of a single ID system.

Apparently, there was secrecy over these preparations. And the secrecy is quite understandable, given the history of the strong opposition to the ID system on grounds of its potential to be used to curtail civil liberties. Thanks to the attacks on the United States, the administration has found an excuse to spring the ID plan on the public.

In a separate initiative, which appears to take advantage of the anti-terrorism climate, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel dusted off old bills and introduced a new one seeking the establishment of the ID system. Pimentel's bill innocuously calls the system a "national voters' identification system." Nothing is said about its use for the anti-terrorism campaign. It outlines the following objectives: to facilitate the issuance of passports and other official documents required by the citizens; to help eliminate election fraud; to facilitate payment of fees and collection of taxes; and to enhance national security.

The ID plan has its origins during the Marcos dictatorship which had a penchant for employing instruments for surveillance on citizen to ensure political control. An attempt was made to revive the plan during the Ramos administration but it was promptly shot down. The reason used by Malacañang is old hat: to facilitate public transactions by doing away with several IDs.

Tacking on the reason that the ID system could help "track down terrorists" is a wrong argument. How wrong the reason is can be illustrated by the fact that the large volume of intelligence information on suspects by the combined efforts of Interpol, military intelligence services of several countries, the FBI and national crime-fighting organizations is not due to any national ID system. This pool of information, from which American authorities have been able to identify more than a hundred suspects and a network of transnational activities linked to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, was produced by intensive intelligence work.

It takes more than IDs to track down clues revealing the clandestine and networks of terrorist groups working in more than 60 countries. The administration cannot therefore use the terrorist attacks as a persuasive argument to win public support for the new legislation, sponsored by Pimentel, who seems embarrassed to write it as the compelling reason for his bill.

Impulsive reaction

THE DECISION of President Macapagal to piggy-back the ID plan on the groundswell of anti-terrorist opinion, worldwide, looks like one of the knee-jerk responses to commit the country to the anti-terrorist coalition. Another apparently impulsive reaction was the offer to send combat troops in support of military action against the terrorists "if there is an international call for such troops."

At the meeting of North Atlantic Treaty Organization defense ministers in Brussels this week, the Nato allies of the United States were left in the dark as to whether President Bush had any "battle plan," despite the war rhetoric. The Nato allies have pledged to back US military action, but the pledge is qualified. Some allies are prepared to take part in some form of military action and others are not.

High US administration officials are now moving toward a "flexible ad hoc coalition" involving different formulas for coalition members. The sum of all these developments is that the Philippine government should not second-guess what the coalition needs to combat terrorism and offer measures that might not needed.

Five fugitives

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

SHORTLY after Edsa I overthrew the Marcos dictatorship, it was reported that Rodolfo Pacificador had fled to Canada, presumably to escape prosecution as one of the conspirators in the murder of Evelio Javier.

The newly installed Aquino administration took immediate steps for his surrender under our extradition treaty with that country. The Canadian courts sustained our request, but he has reportedly appealed or moved for reconsideration. That was several years ago. To date, as far as I know, there has been no news of the final decision on his case.

There is no information either of whether the fugitive is still in Canada or has voluntarily returned (or been forcibly returned) to the Philippines. It has been 15 years since he decamped unnoticed to the freer climes of Canada. Could it be that he has permanently eluded Philippine law, to enjoy his furtive freedom in his asylum state?

His flight calls to mind the recent escapees from our jurisdiction who are needed here for prosecution for various offenses or at least as state witnesses in several important cases.

Among these are Charlie "Atong" Ang and Yolanda Ricaforte, who are co-accused in the plunder cases against Joseph Estrada. There are also Michael Rey Aquino and Cesar Mancao, trusted aides of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the defunct PAOCTF, who slipped out of the country unnoticed.

Ang and Ricaforte had left earlier without being detained by the administration despite their alleged guilty participation in Estrada's activities. Ang is denounced as an Estrada active partner and Ricaforte as the confidante who kept the books of the former president's secret accounts.

Aquino and Mancao left for Hong Kong on board a chartered plane in Subic under false travel documents. It is conjectured that they later used their own Philippine passports in entering the United States or Canada, where they are now hiding. They have recently been indicted for the murder of Bubby Dacer and Emmanuel Corbito.

Safe in foreign territory, these escapees claim they are seeking political asylum from persecution by the Macapagal administration. So confident is Ang of evading extradition that he is reportedly intending to open a business in California.

Aquino and Mancao keep in contact by telephone from their unknown whereabouts. The territories of the United States and Canada are so vast that it is so easy to get lost in any of their more secluded areas or, for that matter, their crowded cities.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has canceled the passports of these fugitives to compel them to return to this country. But it is not really up to us but to the state where they have fled to decide what action to take against them as undocumented aliens. As territorial sovereigns, these countries have the discretion to accept or expel any foreigner seeking the safety of their shores.

There are many ways to avoid the obligations of a country under an extradition treaty. It may, for example, consider the escapees political offenders, which is what Ricaforte and Ang brazenly pretend to be. Another way is to merely take half measures to discover the hide-out of the wanted persons, as in the case of Aquino and Mancao, who can be, but may not be, found. The foreign state may also place so many administrative and judicial roadblocks to their extradition and in effect give them de facto asylum like Pacificador.

If the United States adopts the third gambit, it may justify itself as paying back the Philippines in its own coin. The reference will be to the case of Mark Jimenez, whose extradition at the request of the American government has been pending for more than two years now. The *note verbale* containing such request was received by our government on June 18, 1999, and we are now in a new century.

The Estrada administration delayed the process to benefit one of its advisers and favored cronies. The Supreme Court first sustained Jimenez's demand to study the charges against him and later reversed itself on the motion for reconsideration. The man is unfazed. Apparently sure that he would not be surrendered in the near future, if at all, he even ran for the House of Representatives and won.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has declared that the representative's present office has not insulated him from the treaty provisions. However, the extradition proceedings have continued to drag as slowly as before even under the new administration. One gets the impression from all this dallying that Jimenez has a charmed life indeed.

It's beginning to look like a chess game, with the Americans just waiting for our next move before acting on our own request for the surrender of not just one person but of two or, possibly, even *four*. Their return is vital to the prosecution and conviction of deposed President Estrada, not to say his now-embattled favorite policeman, the newly installed but likely to be soon-unfrocked Senator Lacson.

There is no reason why the present administration should be as protective of Mark Jimenez as Joseph Estrada was during his incumbency. The Macapagal administration must have a weird sense of justice if it is willing to prevent not only the prosecution of Jimenez for his alleged crimes in the United States but also of Estrada, and maybe Lacson too, for their alleged crimes in our country.

Meanwhile, the five fugitives from Philippine justice are as free as a bird in their foreign sanctuary. Our own government seems to be in deep slumber and needs a wake-up call, so let me nudge the offices concerned, including the judiciary, to act a little less sluggishly on the Mark Jimenez case. The US government is waiting for our move.

Innocent woman in jail (2)

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

A VISIT to the local municipal or city jail should be made part of the civics or social studies programs of our high school, or even better, elementary school students. For that matter, it wouldn't hurt either for adults to go on their own.

For the young, it should prove very effective in either encouraging them to stay on the straight and narrow path, or discouraging them from toying with the idea of a life of crime. The adults would most likely come away thanking their lucky stars, or saying, "There but for the grace of God go I."

My visit to Mila E. Valerio at the Quezon City Jail last week—which was the first time I actually made her personal acquaintance, by the way—definitely had that effect on me. And I do not mind admitting that I came away berating myself for having postponed that visit so long, and resolving to do my best to "Let Right Be Done"—in this case, help an innocent woman in her quest for justice.

Of course, cynics will tell us that no one in jail would admit to his or her own guilt. But as the case involving Mila unfolded in the newspapers, it became obvious to even the most disinterested, unwilling-to-get-involved reader like me, that something was terribly wrong about how the NBI zeroed in on her and finally made their case stick with a last-minute affidavit from someone who is now the principal witness against her.

My interest having been aroused, I read all the documents pertinent to the case, including the affidavits of the prosecution witnesses, as well as the rulings/recommendations of the Department of Justice's state prosecutor. And that is when I became convinced that Mila was being given a bum steer and decided to write a couple of columns about the case.

But getting exercised about the apparent injustice to Mila is nothing compared to living and suffering under that injustice. And Mila's misery unfortunately is exacerbated by the slowness with which her quest for justice is going.

For example, Mila's lawyers, Evalyn Ursua and Dario Rama (who are on her case not because of any money involved, but because they are convinced of her innocence), applied for bail more than six months ago. It took more than two months before the hearings on that application started in earnest. And while at first, they went on at a spanking pace, the delays and postponements have started. The net result is that up to now, the application still has not been ruled upon.

Why it should take so long, frankly, is beyond me. I guess it is because "Justice delayed is justice denied" doesn't stand a chance against the requirements of "due process," in whose name, I sometimes think, many injustices and abuses have been committed.

The application for bail that Mila and her lawyers filed is about nine double-spaced pages long. No convoluted, legal gobbledygook here. No obfuscation. A joy to read, because it will be clear even to the intellectually challenged. Fifteen minutes of reading, tops.

In essence, the application for bail makes two main points: The first is that the evidence of guilt against Mila is not at all strong, because (a) the prosecution's only evidence against her is the highly incredible story of one witness who lacks credibility; (b) the other prosecution witnesses either do not link Mila to the killing of her husband, or have stories which are purely hearsay and inadmissible; so that (c) given the lack of evidence against her, the case for parricide against her should not even have been filed at all.

The second point is that there is no other reason for denying her bail, not only because of her standing in the community (a Ph.D., her work in teaching, guidance and counseling; I doubt if she even had as much as a traffic ticket against her before this case exploded in her face), but because she has shown by her actions at different stages of the case that she would not evade or flee from criminal prosecution.

But let the application for bail speak for itself. With regard to the first point:

"The prosecution's evidence concerning the alleged involvement of accused Valerio in the killing of her husband consists primarily of the sworn statement of Modesto Cabador, the uncle of accused Samuel Bara, who admitted in his sworn statement that he was willing to testify against accused Valerio and Antonio Cabador in order to exonerate Baran...Modesto Cabador claims in his sworn statement that he (Modesto) met for the first time in February 2000 a certain 'Marimar' in a drinking session with accused Antonio Cabador, his cousin...During that occasion, 'Marimar' openly discussed with accused Antonio Cabador, in the presence of Modesto Cabador (who was a complete stranger to 'Marimar') the killing of Jun Valerio. Modesto Cabador claims that 'Marimar' was accused Milagros Valerio. This is the sole evidence of the prosecution linking accused Milagros Valerio to the killing of Jun Valerio."

It is not at all surprising that Mila and her lawyers submit that the claim is highly incredible. I, too, when I got to that part in Modesto Cabador's affidavit, not only concluded that the man must be lying through his teeth, but that no one in his right mind would believe such a story.

But amazingly, the state prosecutor believed it. Which is why Mila is now in jail.

(To be continued)

More serious concerns than Estrada

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT appears to be all systems go for the trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada and his son Jinggoy on Monday, Oct. 1, despite attempts of their lawyers to have it postponed. The defense lawyers probably know that there's nothing they can do to delay the trial further at the Sandiganbayan, and one good indication is that Estrada loyalist Ronald Lumbao has been going around the old Erap enclaves in Isla de Balut, Parola and Baseco in the Tondo area, trying to gather crowds for Oct. 1. Lumbao is best remembered for packaging the demos at the Edsa Shrine prior to the May 1 assault on the Palace. This time the plan, according to reports, is to bus the *hakot* crowds to the Sandiganbayan. There are also reports that some fanatical groups would try to "retake" the Edsa Shrine.

* * *

No one can tell how big the crowds will be. Political pundits have opined that Erap is a spent force, but with a generous budget in these hard times, when P500 per head means several meals on the table, anything is possible. The hundreds rendered homeless by the recent fire in Balut, Tondo, could be susceptible to such attraction. Let's hope, however, that those political leaders who had rallied to Erap's cause in the past would now desist from joining this planned demo. Without their support, Erap's paid hacks won't be able to do much. These leaders should realize that the Erap trial is part of a court process in our democratic system.

The best thing the people can do is wait for the trial's results calmly and concentrate instead on the bigger problems ahead, such as fighting the massive poverty that stares our people in the face, and rising to the challenge of development, as former President Fidel Ramos pointed out in his address at the 3rd FVR-RPDEV Lecture Series two weeks ago. These concerns are bigger than Erap, and it is a fact that there are today far more serious efforts to alleviate poverty than the disgraced former president ever tried to do. There are hard times ahead for the globe as well as this country, and they call for unity, more than ever.

* * *

Early on, this column argued that our best contribution to the international effort against terrorism is to contain our homegrown terrorist groups, so that they don't become a problem for the international community anymore. For instance, we could deny foreign terrorists access to our flying schools. I'm glad to note that Speaker Joe de Venecia has expanded this notion of containment of homegrown terrorism by proposing to President Macapagal that the Philippines spearhead the formation of an anti-terrorism coalition with two other Asean countries with similar problems: Indonesia, where the separatist problem is most serious, and Malaysia, which is involved tangentially because of her proximity to Indonesia's problem areas, like Aceh in northern Sumatra and Kalimantan. Apparently Ms Macapagal liked this idea of a regional coalition, for she has included it in the proposed agenda for the Asean summit this November.

* * *

By containing our homegrown terrorists and opening up our port facilities to ships and planes of the US-led coalition against terrorism, sending a Filipino contingent should now be a no-no. To begin with, despite the fact that our soldiers are the most experienced in counter-insurgency because our homegrown insurgency is the longest-running in the world, the harsh Afghan winters, which can dip to 40 below zero, may be something our troops cannot withstand. Remember how the Afghan cold proved deadly to the Russian occupation troops which are used to such winters. Our troops will never survive it. Sending Filipino troops to foreign wars will need the consent of Congress, and we can only pray that our legislators will thumb it down.

* * *

One of the worst embarrassments for columnists is when they misspell people's names. Last Thursday a number of people justly castigated me for misspelling PNP Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop's name as "Acot." Aghast, I checked my computer and realized the error was all mine. My editor failed to correct it perhaps because my column came late due to technical problems. I apologize to Chief Supt. Acop and my readers. I can only surmise that I wrote "Acot" because Joan Feir Acot, wife of former Air Force chief Nonoy Acot, had been on my mind the week before, when I wrote about the PGH project for poor patients in which she is very much involved.

* * *

I have always admired the never-say-die spirit of Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon who rallies people to come to this country despite the many factors that's making that idea sound ridiculous at this time. The other day the world celebrated World Tourism Day, but with global tourism down especially after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the reality (and even Dick has espoused this) is that our tourism will have to rely on our countrymen wanting to see the beauty of their country. That, however, would depend on many factors, such as economics and the creativity of local tourism promotions. But the fact is that there is so much to see in this beautiful country of ours.

* * *

The other day my friend, Lulu Decena, inveigled me to join a group of ladies who were going lanzones-picking in the orchard of our friends, Tessie and Manoling Yap, in Calumpang, Liliw, Laguna. I was glad I went, for the many lanzones and rambutan trees in the Yaps' nearly seven-hectare estate laden with the fruits in yellow and red bunches were so pretty to behold. Beside the well-kept lawn of the Yaps was a gurgling river with big boulders, the site of many painting sessions. After a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Pagsanjan's cathedral, we partook of a sumptuous buffet lunch prepared by Tessie Yap, featuring native delicacies like fresh *tilapia* cooked in coconut milk and *kare-kare*, and native *kakanin* such as pounded *camoteng kahoy*, called *nilupak*, *bibingka* and *espasol*.

Lanzones is in season until October, and I was thinking, why not take your children lanzones and rambutan-picking, before they forget in this WTO-dominated world that these fruits exist (selling there for P35 a kilo and so sweet)? The drive to Liliw, along good, forested mountain roads, takes only two and a half hours from Manila. But as our friend Pilar Fernandez-Perez, sister-in-law of Liliw Mayor Jonathan Polistico, pointed out, there are so many other things to see and do in Liliw and the neighboring towns like Nagcarlan and Majayjay. Liliw is also famous for shoes and bags at very cheap prices, and they are notable for their improved workmanship and styles. Drive up to that part of Laguna this season.

The good life

YOUNGBLOOD

Kitty Kim

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT'S been a year since my uncle and his family came for a visit, their first in 14 years. Their earlier visit was in July 1986 when Lolo died. It was summer in Canada, and the whole family was able to make the trip. The son was then a cute two-year old who learned to utter a single word of Tagalog, which was *ayaw*. And the daughter was a fragile seven-year old who understood Tagalog but could only say *sige*. However, language was not a barrier for us kids.

That first vacation was not a real one, since they were practically forced by a sense of obligation to attend Lolo's funeral. That is a tradition almost all *balikbayans* follow. A funeral thus becomes some sort of a family reunion.

After 10 years, my uncle saw Lolo again, but Lolo was not able to hug his one and only son or his youngest grandson. My uncle also couldn't do it and I think that was what hurt most for him.

From that time on, my uncle has been urging us to try our luck in the land where dreams come true.

Vacation for my uncle and his family is a luxury. Although they live a very comfortable existence (or is it really?), time and dollars seem to possess them. He and his wife hold three jobs each, making sleeping and eating together a rare occasion for them. For them, life is just work, work and work. But they have to do this to give their family a good life.

They have been well rewarded for their efforts. They own a big house in one of Canada's plushiest residential areas. They drive around in a Volvo and a Mercedes Benz.

Their daughter went to the university, and their son studied in private schools.

As a child, the son was precocious. He was a member of an all-boys choir that performed in several cities in Europe. He was also into karate and took piano lessons. He seemed destined to go places. Or so we thought.

It's doubtful if they could have had all these things had they stayed here. So whenever he calls, my uncle never fails to ask why we do not immigrate to the land where promises of a good life are fulfilled.

But material things are not always the source of happiness. Indeed, it will never be, and my uncle now realizes that. Slowly his family has been drifting apart; physically and emotionally. Now even he thinks it may be too late to patch things up.

A few years back, my uncle and his wife gave up their part-time jobs to become real parents to their growing kids. But by then my cousins were not kids anymore. The son was no longer a cuddly and cute two-year old. He had outgrown all his childhood ambitions. Now he is almost the opposite of what everyone expected him to be.

The daughter is more sensible. She finished her course on time without giving her parents a headache. She has turned into the woman her parents wanted her to be. Next year she will marry a Filipino who spent most of his teenage life in the Philippines.

Last year, as I said, they were back in the Philippines for a vacation. It was an opportunity for them to visit Nanay and see us again. It was also a graduation gift for their daughter, my uncle said.

We were very excited to see them again and to get our *pasalubong*. Although everything they brought could be found in the malls of Manila, it was still different to get them from a *balikbayan* box.

My cousins were really grown up. They looked no different from us. With their dark color and black hair , you would not mistake them for a *balikbayan* until they started talking. Although I could sense a distinct smell about them that reminded me of a PX store, they were every inch Filipinos. But that was only as far as their looks went.

I thought my cousins were very eager to spend some time in the country. You know, to trace their roots and to appreciate the Filipino culture. But the language and the culture they were accustomed to proved to be a barrier.

I thought they would be very excited to retrace my uncle's steps on the dusty road of the barrio where both he and his wife once taught at a public school. But when my uncle brought them there, they were grumbling all the time, complaining that it was a waste of time. They could not stand the dust and heat, they protested.

I thought, they would be awed when they saw my uncle's first spoon, which was made of silver. I can still remember him joking that his only son would inherit the spoon. But my cousins didn't bother to take it with them. The Swiss knife (made in Japan) which my uncle bought in his youth they also dismissed as junk. But for me, although I am not his daughter, those things are part of my being and I was proud to keep them like treasures.

My cousins were interested to know why we Filipinos behaved like this or that; or why our TV commercials were always focused on the family. They had a good laugh at the Billy commercial. They asked why we could not move our Lola's birthday celebration to a weekend; or why your friends were very eager to meet them. In Canada, we do not have those things, they said.

I tried to explain everything as simply as I could, but in the end I found myself saying all this was because we were Filipinos and what to them were our idiosyncrasies were part of our culture.

Before they left, they told us how backward our country was, with those *butiki*, *tuko* and *ipis* crawling on the ceiling. They vowed not to visit the Philippines again for the next 10 years. In the end, I wondered if anyone of them achieved the purpose of their vacation.

I thought that because my cousins had Filipinos for parents, they would have some Filipino values even if they were not interested in learning the language. I thought that since they lived in the West, they would be eager to trace their roots. But apparently they never felt like Filipinos at all. The daughter once told me that she had never been identified as a Filipino. She was always mistaken for a Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Hawaiian or Malaysian.

Apparently because they were too busy giving the family a comfortable life, their parents forgot to tell them that the natives of Canada had white skin, blond hair and blue eyes. They forgot to say that were it not for the sweat and tears of some awkward and backward Filipinos who emptied their pockets, they would not have been able to fulfill their dreams. But maybe my cousins were just being loyal to the land of their birth.

Last month, my uncle was crying on the phone. His son seldom stayed home anymore, he said. He had been kicked out of school. At 16, he had all the imaginable vices.

Maybe, he is just young and is on the threshold of discovering himself, I suggested. But no, my uncle said, it was the influence of a liberated culture that set him on the path to self-destruction.

I could not say anything; it came from him. But in between sobs and pouring his disappointment out, he still reminded me to apply for an immigrant's visa. He told us we would never enjoy the good life if we stayed here, seeing how little we were earning.

But what really is the good life? I think we have more of it here than what they have there.

Kitty Kim, 26, has two kids and is self-employed.

The Boob Poem

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BREAST Cancer Awareness Month begins on Monday, Oct. 1. I'm not really sure why October has been bestowed the honor, but I do know we need to devote more research on the disease, and provide women more options for their treatment and survival.

Last year, as I told friends, October to me signified only Breast Cancer Awareness Month. How was I to know that barely into the month, Chavit Singson would detonate his explosive revelations against then President Estrada and light a fuse that would eventually lead to People Power II?

Of all types of cancer, breast cancer kills the most number of women. In fact, the prevalence of breast cancer in the country is the highest in Asia, higher than even in Japan or Singapore even if breast cancer has been called "a disease of development."

A few days ago, friends, family and supporters took time to celebrate the life of Rosa Meneses, who with husband Danny founded the Philippine Breast Cancer Network after she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Rosa passed away a year ago last Sept. 23, but before that, she poured all her energies into the fight against breast cancer here and abroad, and by her courage and steadfastness became the "face" of breast cancer for Filipino women.

* * *

THIS year, different organizations are getting together in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The Zonta Club of Makati and Environs Foundation Inc., through its president Monica Aveo, is linking up with the Cua Bang Foundation, led by breast surgical oncologist Dr. Diana Cua.

The Zontians' observance begins on Oct. 15 with tree-planting among the members, together with breast cancer survivors and proponents of Luntiang Pilipinas, a nationwide tree-planting program initiated by Sen. Loren Legarda. This will be followed by free breast examinations at the club's community center adjacent to the BCDA Centennial Village along C-5 Road in Taguig.

The Oct. 15 observance will be capped by the awarding of the Bessie Legarda Memorial Award to Linda Panutat, president of Prime Spots Inc. and co-founder of Bosom Buddies, a support group for breast cancer survivors. The award will be handed out by Dr. Cua and Senator Legarda, who established the award in honor of her late mother who succumbed to breast cancer.

* * *

IF YOU'RE a woman 30 years old and older, I hope you aren't waiting for some organization to offer free breast exams before you take steps to save your life.

The easiest and least expensive thing you can do is to conduct a breast self-exam. Start by standing before a mirror to check for any changes in the physical appearance of your breasts. Check for any signs of puckering, swelling, lumps, or thickening of skin. Squeeze your nipples to see if there is any discharge. Then, raise an arm above your head and with the other hand, starting from around your nipple and moving in an outward spiral, press and stroke each breast to see if there are lumps and growths. Remember to check your armpits, too.

It takes some getting used to, especially for Pinays who are notorious for squeamishness when it comes to touching their genitals or breasts. It might also help to know that often, it's the husband or male partner who detects changes in a woman's breasts.

By the way, men might also want to practice self-breast exam on their own. Though rare, it is possible for a man to come down with breast cancer, too.

* * *

OF COURSE once you hit the big Four O, or earlier if you have a history of cancer in your family, you should go for a yearly mammogram.

I've written about this procedure many times, and have been criticized for both "minimizing" or "trivializing" the pain involved, and for "exaggerating" the pain and thereby scaring women away from having mammograms.

All I can say is that if women know what to expect, they will be prepared for everything involved in the procedure, including the pain. Still, fear of pain shouldn't prevent you from undergoing a procedure that could detect cancerous tissue early enough to propel you to seek treatment. On the other hand, the medical establishment shouldn't pooh-pooh women's complaints about mammograms. Can't they take women seriously enough to invent a less traumatic procedure?

Whatever, it always helps to have a sense of humor. In this spirit, I offer "The Boob Poem," which was sent to me by my friend Rachel Canlas, and excerpts of which I offer below:

For years and years they told me,/ Be careful of your breasts./ Don't ever squeeze or bruise them/ and give them monthly tests/

After 30 years of astute care,/ My gyno, Dr. Pruitt,/ Said I should get a mammogram./ "Okay," I said, "let's do it."

"Stand up here real close" she said,/(She got my boobs in line),/ "And tell me when it hurts," she said,/ "Ah yes! Right there, that's fine."

She stepped upon a pedal,/ I could not believe my eyes!/ A plastic plat came slamming down,/ My hooter's in a vise!

Excruciating pain I felt,/ Within its vise-like grip./A prisoner in this vicious thing,/ My poor defenseless tit!

"Take a deep breath" she said to me,/ Who does she think she's kidding?!?/ My chest is mashed in her machine,/And woozy I am getting.

"There, that's good," I heard her say./ (The room was slowly swaying.)/ "Now, lets have a go at the other one."/ Have mercy, I was praying.

It squeezed me from both up and down,/ It squeezed me from both sides./ I bet SHE'S never had this done,/ To HER tender little hide.

If I had no problem when I came in,/ I surely have one now./ If there had been a cyst in there,/ It would have gone "ker-pow!"

This machine was created by a man,/ Of this, I have no doubt./ I'd like to stick his balls in there,/ And see how THEY come out!!!!!

Readers' responses

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

CURIOUSLY enough e-mail in response to Rabbi Michael Lerner's article, "Where the violence comes from," came from US readers. A certain MZ writes that the rabbi lacked insight and disagrees that the United States is "hoarding the world's resources." He says: "...[W]e are neither the largest in land, nor in population, gold, oil, or in any other natural resource. In fact, Middle Eastern and Asian countries 'control' most of the these resources. The resources the United States most abundantly possesses are liberty and human rights." This was how America and Israel became wealthy, he says, adding that Israel's GNP is greater than that of any Arab state.

On the other hand, the July 2001 issue of National Geographic reported that with a world population of six billion people, "there is less than five acres of productive land and water available per person for sustainable use." (The operative word here is "sustainable.") Of the productive area of the earth required to support the lifestyle of one individual (land used for crops, grazing, forests products, housing and ocean area exploited for food, including forest needed to absorb carbon dioxide from fossil fuel use), industrialized countries consume "at a rate of 20 acres per person, while developing countries consume at a rate of 5 acres per person." The US requires 30.2 acres and India only 2.6! Next to the United States is Germany with 15.6. (There are no records for the Philippines since as record keeping is not one of our strong points.)

According to my informant, we would need seven or eight more earths if every country would consume at the rate the United States does, which is six times greater than most people in developing countries. Most of us from developing countries are usually struck by what we consider wasteful in Americans. Something as simple as reusing grocery bags for garbage appears to be a waste of time for them. The amount of food thrown away never ceases to amaze us. There's a joke that you can tell if you're from the Philippines if you keep all sorts of containers for future use and if your ref is full of leftovers. But this cornucopia of plenty is exactly what attracts the immigrants. This is the American Dream as fostered by Madison Avenue. It is also what, I imagine, leads to a lot of envy.

However it cannot be denied that "as a global society we (in developed countries) are consuming in excess of a sustainable rate. That means that sooner or later, we will run out of sources unless a drastic revision of our consumption patterns occurs." And yes, Americans aren't "hoarding" resources, they're using them up.

NM from Oregon also thinks that Lerner's assertion that the bombings that took place in the United States were acts of frustration stemming from " various American oppressions" is "shear (*sic*) nonsense." The Middle Easterners who executed the plan were not after human rights for their own people or promotion of human dignity. "In the areas of the world they govern, the system is likely the harshest in the world...the people in these areas who aspire to human rights are in fact likely to be targeted by the same people who attacked New York."

My personal opinion is that there is no justification no matter what the motives of the planners or those who executed them. One idiot had the temerity to write "shit happens." Yes, sure it does, but the Americanism (in case the boy doesn't know the origins of the phrase) refers to willy-nilly fate, not planned, organized well-funded attacks. This is why there is a distinction between pre-meditated murder and manslaughter.

Another writer PB (originally from the Philippines) is glad that there are now more forums in the United States regarding "the causes of terrorism and how to counter them." He postulates that the perpetrators of the attacks were motivated by different reasons, some personal such as vengeance or disagreement with an Arab government perceived to be a puppet of the United States or hatred of Israel, which is supported by the United States, or even the fear by fundamentalist Muslim Arab-nations of American influence, especially liberalism. (Let's not forget that the Taliban's treatment of women is nothing short of barbaric unless some defender is again going to say that this is nothing more than American propaganda and the Afghans are a bunch of sweethearts.) It is in the interest of the United States actually that "no group of people becomes poor or persecuted with the use of American foreign aid or any form of assistance." Americans are apparently beginning to realize that their government has supported regimes in other countries that were less than exemplars of human rights and civil liberties.

By now it's become increasingly clear that there are no easy solutions and no pat answers. Much as dropping The Bomb on Iraq and Afghanistan may appeal to some as a solution, it's obvious it cannot be done without incurring retaliation that could destroy humankind. A professor of mine used to quote poet W.H. Auden writing on the eve of the Second World War: "We must love one another or die." The choice is ours.

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Jews victimized by racial myths

NEAL Cruz claimed in a recent column that the original terrorists were the Jews, the Zionists, and that the first leaders of Israel, like David Ben Gurion, were former terrorists.

First, David Ben Gurion, the first prime minister of Israel and the most influential individual in the creation of the Jewish state, was never a terrorist. For three decades since 1935, he was the dominant figure of the Jewish settlement in Palestine. Although troubled by the continuous Arab riots and terrorist attacks on the Jewish population, Ben Gurion rejected counter-terror and advocated self-restraint.

Ben Gurion indeed suffered from his mistaken association with Vladimir Jabotinsky (Menachem Begin's erstwhile protégé), whom Ben Gurion often referred to as the "Hitler of the Jews." Begin's admission in his book "The Revolt" that it was necessary to hang two innocent young British army sergeants in 1947 and to indiscriminately wipe out the men, women and children of Deir Yassin in 1948 as a "message" to the Arabs and British to leave Jewish Palestine was just as repugnant to most Zionist leaders of his day.

Ben Gurion vigorously opposed the Irgun because he saw terrorist acts as an obstacle to achieving statehood. It was largely his influence that prevented Vladimir Jabotinsky from being brought back to Israel for burial until 1964.

His opposition to terrorism led to a showdown between him and Begin. At one time, the Irgun had purchased weapons and were transporting them to Israel on a ship. When Begin refused to turn the weapons over to the Israeli army, insisting that they were for the Irgun, Ben Gurion ordered the ship to be blown up, even though Israel desperately needed the arms.

Second, it is not uncommon to adopt the Arab propaganda that the Jews are terrorists, too. To quote from the book "From Time Immemorial" by Joan Peters: "So thorough has the rewriting of history been that some Jews themselves have accepted the allegation that the Palestinian Arabs are simply using Jewish tactics to gain statehood when the Arab terrorists attack in and outside Israel."

There was also a time when the lie was peddled that Munich massacre of Israeli Olympians by Arab terrorists was really masterminded by the Jews. The Arab propaganda today is that the Jews are Nazis in Palestine. And who can swallow the line that the Holocaust was a mere Jewish fabrication?

The truth is, Arab terrorism originated long before the invention of molotov cocktails and suicide bombings. Jews in the Middle East were periodically robbed, raped and murdered.

The Jews have suffered from racial myths. History is full of examples of how the Jewish people were the subject of libel and conspiracy theories. All these fueled the fires of anti-Semitism that have sent the Jews to the ghettoes and gas chambers.

Our generation has not learned its history. And worse, Cruz helps in perpetuating it.

It is clear that the Jewish people will eventually be the victim if terrorism drags on. It is a shame that a fellow Filipino has the insolence to call this "poetic justice."

"For Zion sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake, I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns." Thus says the Lord, thus I declare too.—**MICHAEL BASILIO, executive director, Mount Zion Center, P.O. Box AC 422 Cubao, 1109 Quezon City**

Veterans getting higher pension

THIS refers to a letter published last Sept. 6, 2001.

Please be informed that the Department of Budget and Management recently released to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office an amount for the payment of the additional P500 increase mandated by law. Pursuant to this, the PVAO is preparing separate checks in the amount of P500 each. Thus for July, pensioners will be receiving the usual P4,000 monthly pension. The additional P500 check will follow.

For the month of August 2001, pensioners will be receiving a single check in the amount of P4,500 representing their monthly pension plus the additional P500 increase up to October 2001.

The PVAO is requesting an additional P124 million from DBM for the months of November and December.—**GINA BALLESFIN, chief, Office of Public Affairs, Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, Veterans Compound, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City**

Cyber-terrorism could be more costly

BEFORE IT'S again too late, we should already prepare for the possibility of cyber-terrorist attacks. The Philippines is a vulnerable target of cyber-terrorism, just like any other country. The economic damage that could be caused by cyber-terrorism could cost much more than the terrorists attacks in the real world. We already had a taste of it in the Love Bug.

There are more computer viruses out there than bombs. The possibility of a computer virus outbreak is as real as a bomb threat, and it could happen anytime. And let us not forget that terrorists could become computer experts, too, just as they became licensed pilots.

Instead of finger-pointing later on to assign blame, let us point the finger now on who should be doing what has to be done in order to provide cyber-security.—**RAMON V. SEÑERES, Philam Village, Las Piñas City**

LETTERS

A lesson on how to handle sensitive stories

WE share the grief of the American people for the despicable carnage last Sept. 11, 2001. Yet, what we appreciate very much is how the Americans have reacted to the tragedy and the horror, and their handling of the unfortunate event. In every act they have done so far ,they have been admirably professional, civil and self-controlled.

Take the case of the way all aspects of the news has been handled. Gruesome images of the carnage were never graphically presented, which would not have been the case here. Convoluted justifications would have been drummed up to excuse the most sensational photos in lieu of greater substance in the stories reported not just the most titillating tidbit that everybody else already knew.

It is hoped that our media people will learn some lessons from the American journalists on how they handle very sensitive news reports.—**V. EMMANUEL C. FONTANILLA, lawyer, Fontanilla Law Office, 3/F Gonzales Bldg., Pioneer Ave., General Santos City**

What happens to Pag-IBIG dividends?

BY law, every Pag-IBIG member contributes 2 percent of his pay if he earns more than P1,500. His employer is required to provide a counterpart contribution of an equal amount. The savings of the employees in the fund earn a yearly dividend which is credited to the members.

Since the dividends are not given or distributed to the members how will the Pag-IBIG Fund account for such? When will the members receive their compounded dividends? How long will these members wait?—**EDMUNDO G. LEANO, principal, Reina Mercedes Central School, Isabela**

Revenge disguised as justice

THE NATIONAL Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) does not look with favor on the terrorist assaults made on the World Trade Center, which killed far too many innocent lives. We grieve with those who have lost friends and relations even as we realize that no words of sympathy can bring back their loved ones. The trauma of Sept. 11, 2001 will, no doubt, stay with the survivors and the whole nation for a long time.

As we pray for and with our brothers and sisters in the United States, we call on President George W. Bush to lead his country in pursuing peaceful diplomatic negotiations with countries perceived to host the suspected terrorists. We ask that all Americans deeply reflect on their country's posturing vis-à-vis other countries. We wish to convey to them that while there is the violence of terrorism, there is also the violence of imposing a nation's economic and political agenda on weaker nations.

We further remind all other governments that to express solidarity with America does not mean fanning the flames of vengeance, for it is written: "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody...live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge..." (Romans 12:17.19)

It is in this light that we in the NCCP condemn in the strongest terms possible the warmongering taken by the United States in the name of revenge disguised as an act for justice. History has clearly shown that the militarist approach does not bring about the condition that we wish to create. It only fans the flames of vengeance even as it deflects the real issues at hand.

The NCCP joins the groundswell of protest against Philippine involvement in the US act of aggression in the name of retaliation. There are many more survival issues at home that must be faced. To allow the people's voices to go unheeded is a far greater terrorism.—**SHARON ROSE JOY RUIZ-DUREMDES, general secretary, Sangguniang Pambansa ng mga Simbahan sa Pilipinas, 879 Edsa Ave., Quezon City**

No landslide in Angono

WE take exception to the news report entitled "Landslide hits Angono."

No landslide occurred. Instead, soil erosion and scouring caused the fall of a dilapidated house being rented out by Orlando Borasca. There were no occupants in the three rooms of the house because the tenants moved out two months ago.

Only 20 houses were affected by the drainage canal that Delfin Hermanos Inc. constructed. To protect the affected parties, a memorandum of agreement (MOA) was signed by the municipality of Angono, 18 of the affected residents and Delfin Hermanos Inc. The relocation area is inside Constellation Homes II. No down payment and no interest payable in 10 years were the terms agreed upon. How can it be said that the relocation site is dangerous when they are part of the subdivision?

Borasca happens to be one of those who refused to relocate, for his own reasons.

It has to be made clear that the incident happened outside of our project site and property. It happened at the adjoining property owned by someone else where the affected residents were squatting.

We assure everyone that the Constellation Homes II is well protected against flooding. All our government documentary requirements are also in order.—**EDGARDO C. GARCIA, corporate secretary, Delfin Hermanos Inc., 1725 Macario Adriatico St., Malate, Manila**

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join us in celebrating our 37th anniversary

PIID 2001... 37 years and Beyond

DATE : SEPTEMBER 29,2001(SAT)
TIME : 4:30 PM registration
PLACE : PIID PENTHOUSE
8F, Filomena Bldg.
104 Amorsolo St., Makati City

Programme

PART I
10:00 AM - Ribbon cutting & opening of Exhibit
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM EXHIBIT

PART II
4:30 - Registration
5:30 - Mass
6:30 - Opening remarks
Belen S. Morey PIID President
7:00 - Dinner & Raffle
8.00 - Keynote Speaker
Antonieta Fortuna-IBE
PRC Commission Chairperson
8:30 - Presentation of Plaques
10:00 - Socials

EXHIBIT open to the Public
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Organizing Committees

AWARDS
LETI LIMPO
EXHIBITS
GERRY CONTRERAS
CZARINA BALAGTAS
JOEY CARLOS
JOEL NAVARRO
PROGRAM
MINETTE FAJARDO
FRANCIS STA ROMANA
MICHAEL LEE
MELANIE MACIAS
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REGISTRATION
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messages

MALACANAN PALACE

I wish to convey my warmest felicitations to the dynamic men and women of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIID) on their 37th Anniversary. The role of Filipino interior designers in the development of vital and aesthetic infrastructure comes to the fore in a rapidly changing and modernizing environment. This responsibility is increasingly challenged, as the country is cognizant of the urgent need to pursue the highest standards of professionalism towards the global competence.

The PIID has always been at the forefront of change with a commitment to upgrade the skills, creativity and competence of Filipino Interior Designers. The holding of this celebration with the theme, "PIID 37 years and Beyond," echoes your profound commitment to providing quality service and responding to the socio-economic realities of the 21st century. I laud your efforts in developing your expertise and constantly harnessing and enriching your creativity.

Now that we have triumphed over the political uncertainty that once gripped our nation, we must expedite the healing process to ensure a more progressive society for our people. The government welcomes the efforts of institutions like the PIID in nation building. I ask you to join me in leading this nation towards greater peace, prosperity and stability.

Congratulations and MABUHAY!

PRES. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

The Professional Regulation Commission extends its warmest greetings to the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers, the accredited professional organization of the PRC, as it celebrates its 37th Anniversary.

I congratulate the PIID for its 37 years of promoting the cause of the interior design profession. Indeed, the Institute has made its contributions to nationbuilding by enhancing the functional, orderly and aesthetic development of building interiors and the preservation of the historical and architectural heritage of the nation.

The theme, "PIID 37 years and Beyond" certainly embodies the Institute's forward-looking thrust and its confidence in attaining higher levels of professional excellence in Filipino architecture and interior design. As it celebrates its anniversary, I trust that the PIID will continue to empower its ranks with creative, artistic and globally competitive interior designers. Today, more than ever, our society needs your proactive pursuit of excellence, of only to project the best in the Filipino cultural identity.

I therefore urge the members of the Institute to continue promoting the highest standards of excellence and ethical conduct in the practice of the interior design profession.

Best Wishes and more power!

ANTONIETA FORTUNA-IBE
PRC Commission Chairperson

Looking back to the struggling years of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers, at its infancy, we feel so proud to face the world with head so high, for we have established the direction of the interior design profession in terms of recognition and acceptance. But, this is not the end of the struggle, for we have to provide to our enlightened global society that we are armed to meet the challenges of the complexities of our modern world of technology and scientific novelties.

It is on this context that this 37 Years Anniversary Celebration will initiate the global direction focused on design competitiveness!

Hosting of the APSDA is needed a good beginning!

BELEN S MOREY, fpiid
PIID President

My warmest greetings to the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers on its 37th Anniversary this September of the year 2001.

The Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIID) through its consistent artistic and excellent accomplishments, have earned respect and admiration in the profession not only in our country but throughout the world. It is also with great pleasure that I congratulate the PIID members not only in my capacity as the Chairmen of theBoard of Interior Design but with prode as member of this organization.

With the time-tested competence and creativity of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers and with the grace of the Almighty God, we are looking forward to your continued growth and success in all your endeavors.

JOSE MA. G. HUDILLA fpiid
Chairman - Board of Interior Design

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Call to prayer, death found in hijacker's bag

WASHINGTON—A handwritten document containing Islamic prayers, a reminder to carry knives, and instructions to prepare for death was found in luggage believed to belong to one of the 19 hijackers in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Washington Post reported Friday.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents found the document in luggage belonging to a man identified as Mohamed Atta, thought to be one of the key organizers of the hijackings.

The document, written in Arabic, mingles spiritual exhortations with an operational checklist for the airborne suicide attacks, the Post said, quoting a translation of highlights of the note.

"Remember the battle of the prophet . . . against the infidels, as he went on building the Islamic state," it said.

"Everybody hates death, fears death. But only those, the believers who know the life after death and the reward of life after death would be the ones who will be seeking death," the Post quoted the document as saying. *AFP*

Britain says Bin Laden planning further attacks

LONDON—British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw warned Friday of the risk of further attacks by alleged terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden and his network, and likened them to the Nazis.

"You cannot negotiate with these people," Straw told BBC radio, just as it was impossible to negotiate with Germany's Nazi leaders in the run-up to World War II.

"The best historical parallel, I'm afraid to say, is those at the top of the Nazi regime. It wasn't possible to negotiate with (Adolf) Hitler, although some people understandably but naively thought that it was."

He also agreed with the assessment from junior foreign minister Peter Hain late Thursday that Bin Laden may be plotting new terror attacks.

Bin Laden and his al-Qaida network stand accused of the bloody Sept. 11 suicide plane attacks against New York and Washington that are feared to have killed nearly 7,000 people.

"We have to work on the basis that this organization is still there, and that there continues to be a risk of them making further attacks," Straw said.

"We would be complacent and irresponsible not to warn people."

Hain, speaking on a BBC discussion show Thursday evening, said he understood that Bin Laden was "preparing for high-impact terrorist attacks in the coming weeks, if he's able to.

"There is evidence he is planning high-impact attacks in the world, and we have got to make sure he doesn't do it again," he added.

"We've got to track him down. We've got to stop him," Hain stressed. *AFP*

Shaken New York turning to pills

NEW YORK—New Yorkers are increasingly turning to sedation to help them escape the nightmares created by the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

According to doctors and pharmacists in the city, New York's denizens—many grieving for lost friends and family—are looking to medicine more than ever before to help fall asleep.

"The week of the 11th, there were very few calls because patients assumed we were tied up taking care of the disaster and probably thought their problems seemed small," said Charles Bardes, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College and a New York Hospital doctor.

"Now, in the third week since the attack, the floodgates have opened and I'm getting dozens and dozens of calls for sleeping pills and other drugs," Bardes said.

The two most commonly prescribed sleeping pills, those for which Bardes said he has seen a "huge swell" of requests, are Ambien from Pharmacia Corp., and Sonata from American Home Products Corp.

Some pharmacists said the spike in demand for these drugs was immediate.

"Right after the incident, sale of Ambien went up about 50 percent," said Rajan Kohli of independent Falk Drug & Surgical Supply near New York Hospital on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

A great number of elderly patients who are prescribed the drugs on an "as needed" basis were getting prescriptions filled for the first time, Kohli added. "With all the added stress, they needed their sleep."

Consumption of sleeping pills and antidepressants is common in dealing with stress and anxiety resulting from trauma, but need not be continued after patients restabilize, experts say.

"People take the drugs to make them feel as if this had not happened at all. Many people are reporting sleep disturbance and anxiety, which is normal, but they may want to allow themselves to get to the feelings that the drugs are suppressing," said psychotherapist Susan Lukas, a New York Certified Social Worker. *Reuters*

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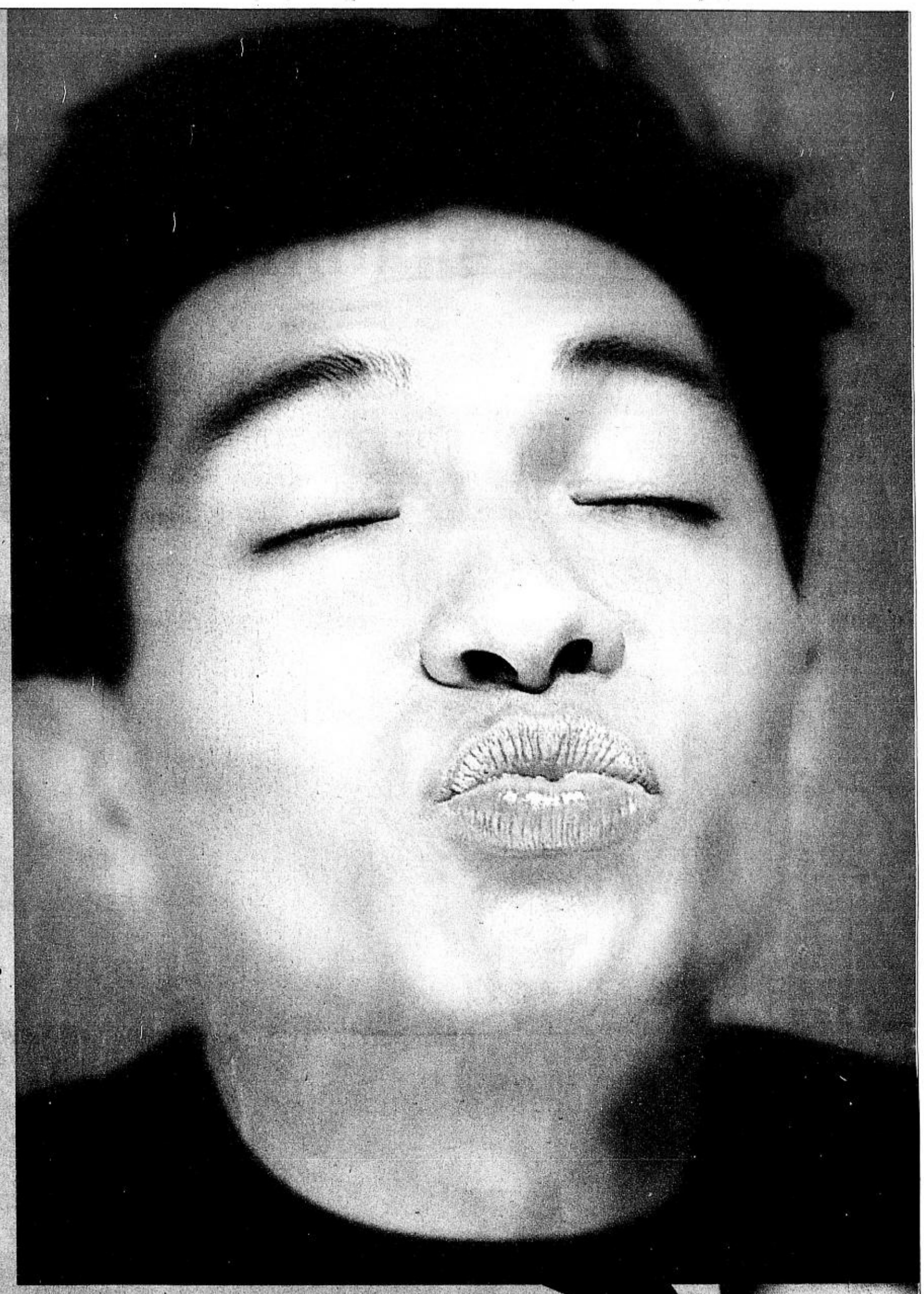

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Annan appeals for $584M for 7.5M Afghan refugees

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan asked donor countries Thursday for $584 million to avert a humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan as the country braces for US reprisals against terrorism.

The money is needed to help an estimated 7.5 million Afghans survive the next six months amid the likely breakdown of aid programs resulting from the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the United States.

While the Security Council blamed the crisis on the Taliban, the hardline Islamist rulers of Afghanistan, Annan said "innocent civilians should not be punished for the actions of their government."

Almost half the appeal, $273 million, is to enable the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other UN agencies to handle an increase of 1.5 million people expected to flee into Pakistan and other countries.

Winter

"The world is united against terrorism. Let it be equally united in protecting and assisting the victims of emergencies and disasters," Annan told a news conference.

In Washington, State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said the United States would respond generously to the appeal, despite its ultimatum to the Taliban to hand over suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden.

"Winter is coming on, food distribution systems have broken down, sometimes because of the actions of the government and we're looking at possible refugee needs as we go forward," Boucher said.

The UN appeal includes $188 million for food, much of which may have to be dropped by air, Annan said, as almost all foreign relief workers have left Afghanistan.

Carolyn McAskie, UN deputy emergency relief coordinator, told reporters it was very hard to get food across Afghanistan's borders, which have been largely closed by neighboring states.

"Fuel is getting shorter and shorter, drivers are among the displaced, there are a whole myriad of problems," she said.

Deteriorated

"In the last 10 days, the situation has deteriorated very fast indeed," the Security Council president, Jean-David Levitte of France, told reporters after Annan and McAskie briefed the council.

Levitte said all 15 members of the council had said they were "ready to help the Afghan people in their desperate situation," but the Taliban had imposed restrictions, which made outside assistance impossible.

"We consider that the Taliban and first and mainly responsible for the consequences of their own decisions," he added.

The Taliban has refused to surrender Bin Laden—who was already indicted on 224 counts of murder after the August 1998 attacks on two US embassies in Africa—and said Thursday that it would fight to the end if the United States attacked Afghanistan.

"In the event of intervention in Afghanistan there will be no difference between Russia and America," Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar said in a statement through Taliban-controlled Radio Shariat in Kabul.

He was referring to the 10-year occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet armed forces which ended in a humiliating retreat in 1989 which helped precipitate the collapse of communism.

But the UN warned of the possibility of chaos within Afghanistan in the event of military action by the United States.

"A massive deterioration of law and order should not be ruled out, with armed groups menacing civilians," it said in a document giving details of the appeal.

Even before military intervention, "criminality and looting, including of aid agency assets, may increase," it said. "Prices of basic commodities will increase."

The UN's appeal also includes $37 million for shelter and other non-food aid and 20 million for the health sector. *AFP*

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Gunman with grudge kills 14 Swiss politicians

ZUG, Switzerland—A lone gunman with a grudge against local officials burst into a regional parliament chamber in an idyllic Swiss town Thursday, killing 14 politicians before shooting himself dead.

Swiss authorities immediately announced plans to strengthen security at public buildings across the Alpine country, and ordered flags to be flown at half mast through the weekend.

Armed with an Army assault rifle and a pistol, and wearing a police uniform, Friedrich Leibacher raked members of the local parliament and government in Zug, south of Zurich, before throwing what appeared to be a grenade, local authorities said.

Fourteen people were wounded, eight of them seriously.

At an emotional memorial service Thursday evening, at which over 1,000 people lit candles and stood vigil, Swiss President Moritz Leuenberger called the massacre an "attack on democracy."

"The spiral of violence threatens the values on which our state is founded," he said.

The Swiss federal government ordered that additional security measures be imposed at the country's 26 regional parliament buildings, as well as in the federal capital Bern.

"Everyone coming in including lawmakers will have to show identification," said Hans-Peter Gerschwiler, a senior official in Bern.

Leibacher, who left a note titled "Day of Wrath for the Zug mafia", killed eleven local parliamentarians as well as three of the seven members in the cantonal government.

The authorities were quick to add that the attack, which sprayed the local assembly hall with blood, had no connection with any political aims, but was rather that of what they called a madman.

"A person with a uniform emptied a whole magazine from an assault rifle. He then left and returned to let off an explosive device, which we believe was a grenade," Zug police chief Urs Hurlimann told a news conference.

"He then fell to the ground and we believe he committed suicide," Hurlimann said.

Justice officials identified Leibacher as a 57 year-old Zurich resident who recently lost a long legal battle against Zug officials which was triggered by an argument with a bus driver for the local public transport company.

"We have a letter left by the dead murderer, we can rule out straight away that the perpetrator was in any way linked in to terrorist acts, especially with the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington," the Swiss federal prosecutor, Valentin Roschacher said.

Police said the dispute escalated into a court battle over defamation and Leibacher accused members of the local government of abuse of power in pamphlets handed out in the town.

More weapons were found in Leibacher's car, which was parked in front of the building.

A reporter for the Swiss news agency ATS, who was covering a session of the local parliament at the time of the shooting, said that "there was blood everywhere," with casualties lying on the floor and small fires burning in the assembly hall. *AFP*

Tensions high on first anniversary of intifada

JERUSALEM—Tensions were high and Israeli security tight yesterday on the first anniversary of a Palestinian uprising that has seen more than 800 people, most of them Palestinians, die.

Despite a ceasefire accord pushed through this week by the United States as it tries to bring the Muslim world on board in its struggle against global terrorism, violence flared on the eve of the anniversary, leaving five Palestinians dead in the Gaza Strip.

More than 30 others were wounded during an Israeli tank incursion into Palestinian-controlled territory, a move that angered Washington and cast a pall over the first joint security meeting to be held since July 25.

State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher called on both sides to "break with past practices" but singled out Israel for particular reprimand, calling the incursions "provocative acts that can only escalate tensions and undermine efforts to bring about a lasting halt to violence."

The incursions started just hours after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister met in Gaza Wednesday to sign an accord aimed at getting the deadlocked peace process back on track.

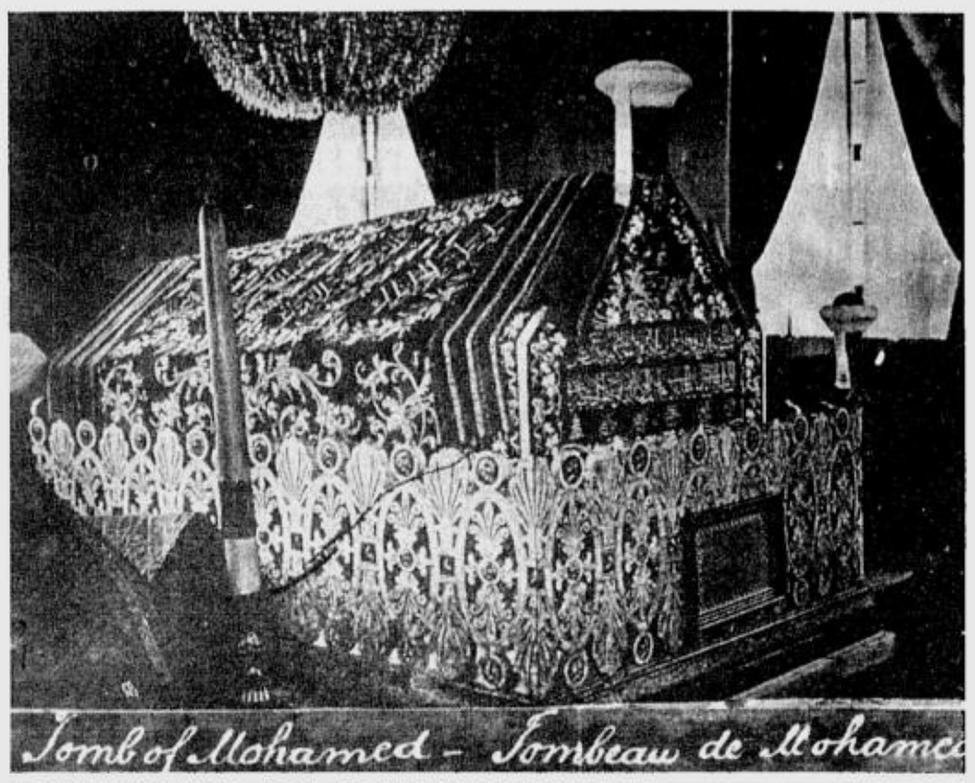
The deal was forced through by huge US pressure and was signed even as Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian youth, hours after a Palestinian attack on an Army bunker injured three Israeli soldiers.

In the first concrete move to result from the signing, Israel and the Palestinians were holding high-level security talks at a secret location to address issues surrounding the implementation of the truce deal.

But Israel held out little hope for the meeting.

Deputy Defense Minister Dalia Rabin-Pelossof said on public radio that Israeli "security officials and the Army are pessimistic about the will of Yasser Arafat to implement the ceasefire, but we must give this accord a chance."

Army spokesperson Yarden Vatikai said Israel would re-submit a list of wanted Palestinian militants who, under the deal, the Palestinians are meant to arrest. *AFP*



FOUNTAINHEAD OF A GREAT RELIGION REUTERS

The only known photograph, an undated 19th century print, of the tomb of the prophet Mohammed, shown to the media Sept. 27, is to go under the auctioneer's hammer next month at Sotheby's in London. Sotheby's said there had been great interest in the photograph of the tomb taken in Medina, Saudi Arabia, one of Islam's holiest sites.

13 cops, woman injured in new Belfast rioting

BELFAST, Northern Ireland—A woman was shot in the leg and 13 police officers were injured as Protestant militants rioted in north Belfast for the second straight night, police said Friday.

Officers in helmets, flame-retardant suits and flak jackets suffered barrages of gasoline bombs, firecrackers, bricks and rocks during confrontations with several hundred Protestants Thursday night.

Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan, commander of the predominantly Protestant police, said Friday the violence—the worst he has seen for some 20 to 30 years—had been planned by paramilitaries.

"We had seven separate shooting incidents. We had more than 100 petrol bombs thrown at our officers. What we are seeing is utterly reckless," Flanagan told the British Broadcasting Corp.

Flanagan said he was certain that the violence was being directed by members of the outlawed Ulster Defense Association, which is supposed to be observing a ceasefire in support of Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord.

Insisting that Thursday night's violence had been orchestrated, Flanagan said, "You do not have spontaneous access to 100 petrol bombs."

During more than three hours of mayhem on the Crumlin Road, militants hijacked and burned four vehicles. Police responded by firing 8 plastic bullets, the snub-nosed cylinders that are designed to knock down rioters. *AP*

Ex-official found guilty in Japan AIDS mess

TOKYO—A former Health Ministry official was found guilty of negligence yesterday for failing to stop the sale of untreated blood products.

Akihito Matsumura, 60, the former head of the Health and Welfare Ministry's biologics and antibiotics division, was given a one-year prison sentence suspended for two years, a Tokyo District Court spokesperson said on condition of anonymity.

The ruling means that Matsumura will avoid jail. It was not immediately known if he planned to appeal.

Since the first half of 1980s, about 1,800 hemophiliacs in Japan have contracted HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, from untreated blood products. More than 500 have died.

Matsumura was director of the Health and Welfare Ministry division that handled blood products between 1984 and 1986, when the ministry failed to ban the sale of untreated blood products despite knowing they were dangerous, prosecutors said.

Friday's ruling was the latest judgment in a series of tainted blood lawsuits.

The scandal shook Japan's powerful bureaucracy and pharmaceutical industry and raised questions about whether the government valued corporate profits over people's lives. *AP*

'Tainted' S. Korean minister resigns

SEOUL—South Korea's construction and transportation minister resigned yesterday as the latest in a long line of corruption scandals mounted around the government of President Kim Dae-jung.

Officially Minister Ahn Jung-nam, who only took office three weeks ago, resigned because of poor health. But the opposition had accused him of corruption this week.

Rival political parties have been wrangling over alleged links to corruption by officials for weeks, tainting Kim's active anti-corruption campaigns of the past three years.

"Minister Ahn telephoned the office from a hospital to express his resignation today," an official at his office said.

The minister was admitted to hospital on Thursday for treatment for diabetes and cancer, the aide added.

Earlier this week, opposition lawmakers claimed Ahn had amassed an illegal fortune whilst working as a tax official.

The opposition claimed during a parliamentary audit of the ministry that he purchased a $115,000 apartment in 1979 when his pay was two million won a year. Opposition lawmakers said Ahn had bought 1.7-billion won worth of land in Seoul in 1989.

Ahn has denied any corruption.

But his short-lived ministerial career was put under even more pressure from the opposition lawmakers when they claimed one of his brothers had suspicious links to a separate lobbying-for-money scandal. *AFP*

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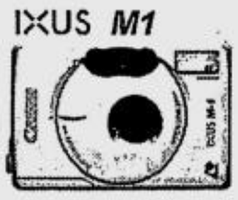
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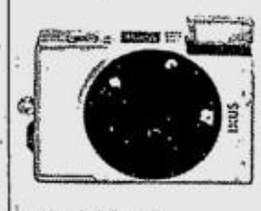
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/29/01

Probe sought of weak sale of cheap generic medicines

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Nobody's been buying the cheap medicines imported last year by the government, and Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II wants to know why.

Roxas has ordered a major review of the government's parallel importation program for commercial medicines after discovering that "only 1 to 10 percent of the cheap medicines had been moving through the market in the country," according to Armando Galimba, regional director of the Department of Trade and Industry.

"This is (bizarre) because we are talking about medicines like a diabetes drug that sells normally for P8, when its government-imported counterpart sells for P3.10. So if these drugs are very, very cheap, why is the public not buying them?" Galimba said during a press forum here on Wednesday.

But the DTI may have stumbled on the likely culprits: Doctors in the provinces, whose prescriptions could depend on the pharmaceutical companies sponsoring them.

"Many doctors actually get incentives, gifts or even cuts from the medicines they prescribe, and that is what government needs to address today. The DTI and the Department of Health are thinking of advertising and other high-profile information campaigns. This is important because DTI intends to spin this program into local government counterparts, to widen the market for cheaper drugs that will compete with pharmaceutical companies," Galimba said.

Roxas undertook the state-backed importation plan for nine commonly purchased medicines as trade secretary during the Estrada administration.

He said the importations would reduce the high cost of medication in the country, by making medicines available at half their commercial costs.

President Macapagal-Arroyo continued the program this year, after reinstating Roxas to the trade department.

Batches of cheap medicine were imported early this year from India and other Asian countries by the Philippine International Trading Corp.

Dr. Teresita Bonoan, regional DOH director, said the medicines were first sold in Davao and Metro Manila, before these were sold to more areas in the country, including Baguio City.

"This may be one reason why the sales have been soft. Only nine major hospitals sell the cheap medicines, and few patients probably needed them during that duration," she told the INQUIRER.

ROXAS

The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center received its first shipment of three common medicines only on June 1, but retailers there also fared no better than those in other market sites, said Galimba, also the DTI Luzon Island coordinator.

According to the three-month sales figure covering June and July, only 1,691 of 17,500 units of cotrimoxaline (an antibiotic), salbutamol (an asthma drug), and glibenclamide (an anti-diabetes drug) were sold, he said.

For salbutamol alone, the sales figure represented only 4.2 percent, while the more accessible cotrimoxaline sold between 4.4 percent and 12.5 percent.

"The irony of these all is that these medicines go for a very low price. The government cotrimoxaline is worth P5.10 but its commercial counterpart in drugstores is P24.38 a unit. Government salbutamol sells for P197.60 per unit but its drugstore counterpart is worth P269.88 per unit. Government glibenclamide sells for P3.10 a unit, but in the drugstores, this is worth P8," Galimba said.

He said DTI needs a thorough evaluation of the medicines' marketability because of a plan to spin off the importation to local governments to widen the access to cheaper medicines.

But Bonoan suggested prudence. "The evaluation may have come too early because few doctors even know that these medicines exist," she told the INQUIRER.

ROUNDUP

Jobs agency in trouble

DAVAO CITY—An overseas employment agency, which duped job seekers overseas at a job fair in Cotabato province a few months ago, faces closure. Marie Grace Eborde, officer-in-charge of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration in Mindanao said the POEA has already filed an administrative case against the Manila-based Blessing Employment Agency for violation of the recruitment rules. The POEA also filed a criminal case now pending before the prosecutor's office in Kidapawan City. At least 15 victims filed complaints against the agency but the POEA said more victims may come out in the open as the firm operated in far-flung areas in Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Saranggani.

Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Trader held for shabu

DAVAO CITY—Agents of the Regional Anti-Narcotics Office here arrested a businesswoman reported to be a relative of a city councilor during a buy-bust operation on Tuesday night. But Maria Theresa Consunji, 34, said she was framed-up and harassed by anti-narcotics agents. Police said it was a legitimate operation and that Consunji was the one who handed a small sachet of shabu to an agent posing as a buyer. The deal, he said, occurred inside Consunji's vehicle, a light-brown Suzuki Vitara with license plate LDB-992.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

It's suicide

DAVAO CITY—Authorities here have concluded that the American tourist found dead at the compound of the Waterfront Insular Hotel committed suicide. Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, city police director said the result of the paraffin test on Charles William Sens did not indicate foul play. Garcia also said individuals with ill motives could not just enter the hotel's premises. "No person could have entered the premises of the hotel and shot the victim since the place is well guarded," Garcia said. Sens, of Minnesota, was found dead Monday morning.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Village councilor killed

SAN MARCELINO, Zambales—A barangay official was killed while a policeman was wounded Wednesday when a group of suspected rebels waylaid them in a remote village here, police said. Killed were Kagawad Jose Viernes, 50, of Barangay Adlao here. Wounded was SPO2 Conrado Paje of the San Marcelino police. They were with a group that went to the house of a barangay official to investigate a reported theft of cows. On reaching the house, they were met by gunfire. The suspects were led by a Ka Joven of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, police said.

Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Smuggled garments seized

BALANGA CITY—Police seized 356 rolls of expensive polyester garments smuggled out of the Bataan Economic Zone Complex in Mariveles town. Insp. Jaime Brillantes said the smuggled goods were loaded in a six-wheel truck of EMF Trucking Service owned by one Zenaida Faller of Barangay Citra in Mariveles. Arrested for failing to present documents were Fernando Torres, driver; and Johnny de Villa and Benedick Faller, both helpers. Sources said smuggling of garments and other export products is rampant as Christmas draws near.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fire code violators

DAGUPAN CITY—Fourteen commercial establishments, three hospitals, three schools and two hotels in the city have been found by the Bureau of Fire Protection to have violated the city's fire code. City Fire Marshal Aquilino Paras said some of the buildings do not have fire exits, fire ladders and emergency lights, while most of the structures lack fire extinguishers. Others have fire suppression devices that are losing pressure and are due for refilling.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

S&R to open in Pampanga

SENIOR executives of S&R Price Membership Shopping yesterday met with President Macapagal-Arroyo at the signing of a memorandum of understanding committing the S&R Price Membership Shopping to build and operate a warehouse in Pampanga. S&R Price currently operates a warehouse in Makati and plans to open its second warehouse in Pasig in November. "We are committed to this country and to bringing a higher quality of life to the communities we serve. Our wages are about 30-40 percent above the market (wages), we provide great value, offer a high quality, low priced selection of merchandise, deliver service at world class standards and pay our taxes. We are the ideal foreign investor," said Gil Partida, president and chief executive officer of PriceSmart, Inc.

Rare sex harassment case baffles Davao prosecutors

DAVAO CITY—Prosecutors and court personnel here were dumbfounded as a 14-year-old boy filed a complaint of sexual harassment against a 30-year-old woman.

The boy said he was "sexually abused" by the suspect inside an establishment along Bonifacio Street here on Sept. 19.

Fiscal Leo Madrazo, of the city prosecutors' office, admitted that prosecutors are in a quandary over what specific provisions in the anti-sexual harassment law should be used against the suspect, who is a senior medical student from one of the schools here.

Madrazo said it was the first time that a woman was accused of molesting a minor.

"It's a novel case and I think this would serve as a jurisprudence in future penal laws, should it prosper in court," he said.

The victim, who works as an errand boy in the establishment owned by the suspect's relative, said the woman, together with a gay companion, arrived around 2 p.m. and ordered "Red Horse" beer.

He said when he was serving the order, the woman asked to kiss him, which he ignored.

Shortly, a peanut vendor entered the establishment and was asked by the woman to sit beside her.

Afterwards, the boy said the woman kissed the peanut vendor.

Around 5:30 p.m., the boy said he was standing near the counter when the woman approached and forcibly dragged him to the kitchen.

He said there, the woman removed her clothes and then stripped him.

The boy said the woman succeeded in abusing him. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Search on for Gloria bet for ARMM governor

COTABATO CITY—The search is on for the administration's official candidate for governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced here during her recent visit.

The President's personal choice to be the next governor of the expanded ARMM is Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema but he is disqualified since the city opted not to join the ARMM.

"I really wanted Cotabato City to become part of ARMM so that Mus (Sema) could be the next governor," Ms Macapagal told participants to the 10th Mindanao Business Conference at Estosan Garden Hotel.

"But we are a free country and you really wanted to be under the national government rather than the ARMM government, we respect your choice but it is harder to administer economic development in these areas."

"The search is on, we are looking for a candidate that could deliver (and) who will be nominated by the ruling party," she said.

The elections are scheduled on Nov. 26 following a plebiscite on Aug. 14 which expanded the ARMM from four-provinces to five provinces and a city.

Basilan and Marawi City joined Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Incumbent ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari was quoted by his deputies as saying that he would not seek reelection because he believes the recent political exercise was illegal and a violation of the 1996 peace agreement. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Dumaguete rejects funds from city lotto operations

BY ALEX V. PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The cash-strapped Dumaguete City government has refused to accept a check worth P127,076.05 from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) in the wake of its anti-lotto drive.

City Treasurer Erlinda Tumongha told a PCSO representative on Thursday that a memorandum from City Administrator Dominador Dumalag Jr. prohibits her office from accepting any money from the PCSO effective July 30, 2001.

Three lotto outlet operators, who accompanied the PCSO representative to City Hall, were surprised when they learned that the city government had turned down the check.

The P127,076.05 in check represented the city government's 5 percent share of the lotto proceeds from July to December 2000.

A lotto outlet operator, who asked not to be named, said the city government should have accepted the money because it was derived from the lotto operations during the time of then Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo.

"They say the city government has no money and yet they refuse to accept this amount," the lotto operator said.

But the city government might accept the check after Mayor Agustin Perdices was told that the money represented the city's lotto share in the previous administration.

Perdices said he would look into the legal implications of accepting the money. "We were under the impression that this money was for the lotto share of the current year," he said.

The mayor said the city government "could certainly use that money." But Perdices said he was apprehensive that the city government might be put in a bad light if he accepted the money.

"We don't want the (lotto operators) to use it against us," he said.

Perdices has made it a policy not to accept the city government's lotto shares starting July 2001 when he assumed the mayoral post.

"We felt it was awkward to accept the money from the PCSO because we didn't want them to operate," he said.

The city government has been pushing for the closure of lotto outlets here in keeping with Perdices' campaign promise.

Its drive against lotto operations is anchored on Provincial Ordinance No. 4, which authorizes local government units to regulate lotto operations.

Shortly after he took over as mayor in July, Perdices tried to close the six lotto outlets in Dumaguete for operating without a business permit.

The lotto operators then filed individual cases in court, questioning the city's move on the ground that the PCSO has a nationwide franchise to operate lotto.

Different judges of the Regional Trial Court in Dumaguete handled the cases. Of the six, three had already been decided on.

Two RTC judges ruled in favor of the city government that led to the closure of the affected lotto outlets.

One judge, however, decided in favor of the lotto operator, citing a ruling of the Court of Appeals that upheld the PCSO's authority to establish lotto outlets nationwide without securing any local permits.

Killers of farmer, son hunted

BY CHITO A. FUENTES
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Police have launched a manhunt for Bohol's most wanted man after he and two others opened fire at a house in Valencia town, killing a farmer and his nine-year-old son.

Supt. Lani-o Nerez, Bohol police director, said elements of the 791st Provincial Mobile Group and policemen from the towns of Dimiao and Valencia were hunting Saturnino Balatero, his brother Reinerio and an unidentified companion.

He said he also asked for a police artist to draw a sketch of Saturnino. Except for a few policemen, he said some of the troops searching for Saturnino could not recognize the suspect.

Nerez said the Valencia municipal government has put up a P50,000 reward for Saturnino's arrest. The Lila municipal government was also expected to offer a cash reward for the arrest of the suspects.

The hunt for Saturnino was stepped up after he, his brother and a companion killed Rodolfo Jandugan, 35, and son Carlito at dawn of Sept. 24 in Barangay Anoling, a mountain village in Valencia.

Woman abducted on highway

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Police are in hot pursuit of three armed men who reportedly abducted a daughter of a Chinese businessman here Wednesday.

Police said Jacqui Rowena Tiu, 28, was driving a white Honda Civic with her mother Rebecca on board on their way to the family-owned Capital Lumber when their car was bumped in the rear by a maroon car.

When the women got out of the car to check the damage, three armed men also alighted from their car and forced Jacqui back inside her car.

One of the men took over the wheels and sped southward along the highway while the maroon car trailed them.

Jacqui's mother escaped by making a run for the highway.

In spite of the police dragnet on La Union's exit points, authorities failed to arrest the kidnappers or recover Tiu. *Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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INQUIRER Visayas
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Bay fish pens keep villages at low ebb

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
Iloilo

PRIVATELY owned fish pens and cages are choking the Plandico Bay in northern Iloilo and the source of livelihood of some 500 families of fishers and shellfish and fry gatherers.

Three of the structures, which cover almost two-thirds of the bay, are being blamed not only for depriving the communities food and access to the bay but also for the rise in pollution and siltation in the water body.

Brothers Juan and Julio Alvarez own two of the pens, and the third, the fishers claimed, is jointly owned by Mayors Jett Roxas of Ajuy and Raul Banias of Concepcion. The two officials have strongly denied the accusation.

Leaders of the fishing communities recently asked the provincial board to help rid the bay of the fish cages and pens.

If these were not dismantled, they said, the bay's resources would slowly dwindle, its waters would remain polluted and the small fishers would go hungry.

The 160-hectare Plandico Bay lies between the territorial waters of Concepcion and Ajuy and drains into the Visayan Sea through an opening of a hundred meters.

Also called the Tinagong Dagat by the residents, the bay is ringed by mountains, making it suitable to year-round fishing.

During high tide, the whole bay is submerged. When the tide ebbs, especially during the monsoon months, only 30 hectares of the bay area is submerged.

The Plandico Bay serves as the fishing ground of some 500 families in Barangay Silagon in Ajuy and the adjoining villages of Niño, Plandico, Tamisaac and Macalbang in Concepcion.

Families also gather clams and other shellfish, as well as catch shrimps and crabs that are abundant in the mangrove areas during low tide.

Trial and error

After years of trial and error, a group of fishers in 1997 pioneered the raising of *bangus* (milkfish) in fish pens in the bay. With 202 members, they organized the Silagon Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

Bangus raising, timed during the monsoon months (October to February), proved to be lucrative. The cooperative earned more than P500,000 and many members received P20,000 each in dividends.

News of the highly profitable venture spread and three more fish pens were built, but this time, by private investors.

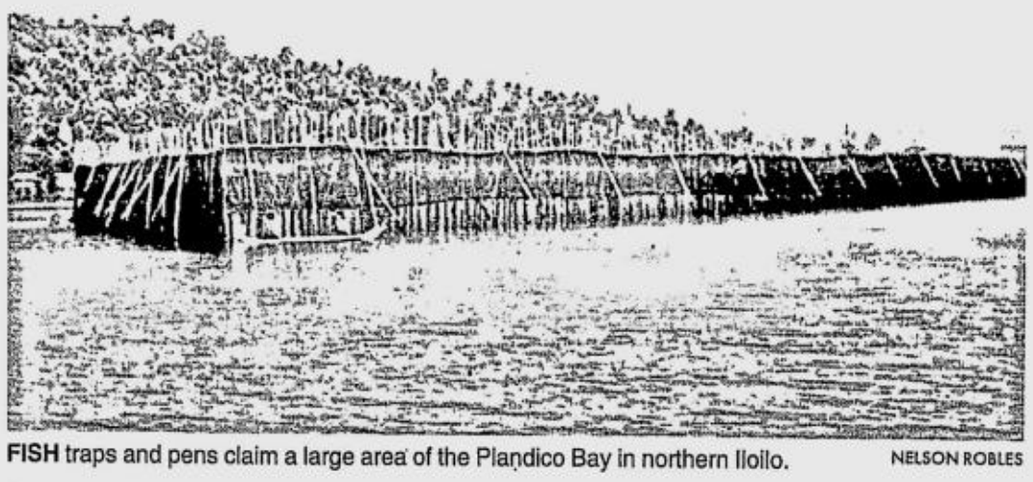
Unlike the cooperative, which gives the bay a rest after one crop season, the privately owned pens and cages squat inside the bay all year to harvest *bangus*.

The presence of the new structures sparked resentment among the cooperative members and the residents.

In a petition signed by close to 400 members, the cooperative blamed the private fish pens for preventing them access to the bay to fish and transport products.

Pascual Firmeza, 65, used to earn a living by selling thousands of bamboo poles to Negros Occidental. The poles were tied together in a raft that would cross the bay into the sea off Negros Occidental in an 18-hour trip.

Now Firmeza is out of business because the rafts can no longer navigate without knocking over the pens and the cages. It is now impossible to float the poles in a shallow area.



FISH traps and pens claim a large area of the Plandico Bay in northern Iloilo. NELSON ROBLES

The presence of the fish pens at the bay, considered a natural harbor, has kept away fishing boats and bancas that used to beach and take shelter from strong waves and winds during typhoons.

The cooperative complained that the fish pens at the mouth of the bay were blocking fish coming in to spawn. At least 75 percent of the bay entrance is obstructed by a network of bamboo poles and the nets of fish pens.

Murky waters

The presence of fish pens has turned the waters murky, raising fears that a fish kill may not be far-fetched. Only a fraction of the feeds given to milkfish is eaten because the feeds sink too fast, are too fine or are not easily digested.

The cooperative computed that every year, about 880 tons of wasted commercial *bangus* feeds are deposited at the bottom of the bay. The concentration of feeds can use up a lot of oxygen.

On Aug. 9, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources conducted a water analysis on the Plandico Bay and found that the water was well within the standards for salinity, dissolved oxygen, ammonia, acidity and color.

The result, however, showed dissolved oxygen was at 4.3 to 4.5 milligrams per liter, slightly higher than the normal 3.5 mgl.

But the tests were conducted at a time when the fish cages were not operating. The BFAR said the results might vary if the pens were intensively stocked.

The cooperative also cited a study undertaken by Teodora Bagarinao of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Seafdec), which warned of "major water pollution" if waste production exceeds the capacity of the receiving water.

Pollution is already taking its toll on the shellfish gatherers and the fish trap tenders, many of whom are women.

Winnie Peñaflorida of Barangay Silagon said her fish traps used to yield 20 kilos a day before the fish pens were put up. Now, her traps can hardly harvest three kilos.

Teofredo Batasi-in, 53, gathers seashells for a living at the bay's mud flats. Before, he only had to wade through knee-deep mud and his harvest was enough to feed his family. Now, he has to plunge into waist-deep mud because his find is getting scarce.

Undaunted

Mayors Roxas and Banias are unfazed by the opposition to the fish farms.

Banias said the *bangus* fry gatherers in Plandico and in Silagon earn 50 centavos for every kilo of *bangus* harvested by the fish farm owners. Barangay Plandico's share was estimated at P80,000 last year.

The owners, he added, were helping a newly organized cooperative, the Plandico Cooperative, to start its *bangus* farming venture.

But Roxas and Banias said they were willing to abide if the BFAR orders the dismantling of the pens.

Hitler Seville, BFAR fishery resource management officer, said the best way to resolve the problem was to re-zone the bay and designate areas for common and private use.

The conflict, he added, is best left to the officials of Ajuy and Concepcion to resolve.

The provincial board conducted an investigation after receiving the complaint of the fishing communities.

During a hearing two weeks ago, Wilfredo de los Santos, BFAR acting provincial director, was called to shed light on the issue.

He, however, caught the ire of board members when he said the fish pens did not obstruct navigation and that the bay was not within the BFAR's jurisdiction.

The provincial board has yet to release its findings, which will be submitted to Gov. Niel Tupas Sr. for appropriate action.

Yet, the board members agreed that the fish pens at the mouth of the bay should be dismantled to provide relief to the fishing ground.

Under the Philippine Fishery Code of 1998, only 10 percent of the bay is allowed for fish farming. In the case of the Plandico Bay, the board members noted that the pens and cages already covered 70 percent of the bay.

Ely Alpange, a Baptist pastor and chair of board of directors of Silagon Cooperative, urged the provincial legislators to act fast.

"The welfare and the future of marginal fishers are at stake against the interest of the privilege few who already have more than enough in life," he said.

Politics and the Gender and Development budget

LUCID INTERVALS

Rowena V. Guanzon

IN THE LOCAL governments, unless the mayors and governors and their *sanggunians* (councils) are women or are truly aware of women's issues, expect the needs of women not to be in the top of their list.

Men continue to hold political power because women have difficulty winning elections for lack of money, and the gatekeepers of party politics are men. Those who win are women who come from political families or are rich. How many of them have a women's agenda we do not know.

Most local politicians do not believe that women are marginalized and that affirmative action is needed to equalize opportunities for women. They trivialize the issue by denying the necessity or "forced" allocation of 5 percent of their budget for women, and even maintain that this budget can also be used for the benefit of everyone, not only women.

If they think of the women at all, they think of them as voters, not women who have a right to empowerment and who have their rightful share of the city of municipal funds for their basic needs and development.

This is why in this country, the local government units (LGUs) have to be mandated by law and national government policy to help ensure that women have a piece of the pie, decide where that money should go, and effectively participate in the implementation of their programs, projects and activities.

That is one aim of the Gender and Development (GAD) budget, which is incorporated in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) after The Women in Development and Nation-building Act (Republic Act No. 7192) was passed in 1992. The GAA includes an appropriation for gender-responsive projects and all national agencies and LGUs are required to allocate 5 percent of their total budget to programs for women.

After eight years, the "battle for the budget" is still a struggle for women and women's groups. I asked the Department of Interior and Local Government's GAD officer how many LGUs have GAD budgets and the answer was "we don't have that information, we only have regional reports."

That is not the only problem. The DILG circular is wrong. It states that the GAD budget is 5 percent of the 20-percent Development Fund (from their Internal Revenue Allotment), while the Department of Budget and Management correctly states in its circular that it is 5 percent of their total budget.

And then there are LGUs that have not passed their GAD budgets because of partisan politics. There are even those that have not passed their budgets at all because they are still fighting even after the elections.

We are only talking about 5 percent of the total budget here, and yet many mayors and governors can't give it to the women. What's wrong with you guys? Aren't you satisfied with the 95 percent? In fact, women have been so left out for many years that if this were a labor case you should be paying "back pay."

We should even be looking at where the total budget of LGUs go, and how much is spent for the delivery of basic services—health, water, nutrition, education, etc.—outside of the GAD budget. We will find that a large chunk goes to infrastructure and purchase of vehicles because that is the source of kickbacks.

In Angeles City, home of the former Clark Air Base, former councilor Susan Pineda and 16 women's groups were able to put the GAD budget in their budget ordinance in 1998. Yet, partisan politics is the major obstacle to the full participation of women and the implementation of their budget.

The mayor has placed the GAD office under his control so he alone decides where the GAD budget will be spent. It is not an automatic appropriation like our foreign debt servicing, so every year, women have to fight for this appropriation.

And yes, Virginia, even if you do get it but you have no control over where it should go, it will be misused. The money can go to almost anything, from salaries of personnel to vehicles to supplies as in Angeles, leaving little left of it for direct and basic services and programs for women.

As in most things in this country, politics is the key. Pineda and her group were able to pass the GAD budget (about P20 million) then because her political party was the majority in the council. If the mayor doesn't care about it, the GAD budget can still pass if the council is "women-friendly."

To aspire that they are or have to be gender sensitive is too much. Think of them as politicians counting votes. If women's groups are strong, the politicians will listen and comply.

We can't leave the decision making to politicians. We have to strengthen the "demand side" of governance, which is the continuous pounding of non-government organizations and the private sector on the doors of mayors and governors for them to comply with what are basically the rights of women.

They must believe that it is their duty to comply with the law, even if they do not believe in women's rights. If they do not comply, go to the court for mandamus, which is what I have done for the health workers of Cadiz City so they could get their benefits from the Magna Carta for Health Workers.

Women's groups should go all the way to the Supreme Court on questions of law if necessary, if only for all mayors to be enlightened.

It continues to be an uphill struggle for women's groups until more women are elected in office. But while waiting for that to happen, NGOs, the private sector and people's organizations can strengthen their ranks and capacity so that they can effectively engage their political leaders and weaken the culture of traditional politics.

We cannot expect traditional politicians to change and be gender-sensitive. We can only vote them out of office.

Artists take to the streets

BY ROY LU
Cebu City

AN INVASION force they were not. If they were, their strategy was surely to overwhelm the enemy—with amusement or sheer perplexity.

Consider their landing team: A lone frail-looking man coated in white dragged a white-painted bamboo ladder through the streets. He stopped to spit out starch, then poured white paint on his bare feet and stomped on the puddle before moving on, white footprints dogging him.

At one designated point, he stepped into a white arachnoid object and started crawling around. Some people in the crowd started pelting him with plastic bombs of colored water.

After all the bombs were exploded, he got up and proceeded to enter a building, crawled some more up the ladder toward a white oval target on the floor.

On a screen, images of violence were projected, as well as the texts: "When you teach a child not to kill a caterpillar, it is good for both child and the caterpillar." "Custom makes any atrocity acceptable." "The Devil can cite Scriptures for his own benefit." The last image simply said: "NO."

Meet Wire Tuazon, performance artist and acknowledged leader of the Surrounded By Water (SBW) artist group that recently opened its first show outside mainland Luzon titled "Portable Landscapes."

The show began Sept. 14 at the Lunâ ArtSpace on Gorordo Avenue in Cebu City. It will run up to Oct. 5.

It is part of an exchange exhibit project between artists of the SBW Alternative Art Gallery and the Lunâ ArtSpace, which are both artist-managed.

In April, artists of Lunâ completed the first half of the project with a show titled "Connected by Water" at the SBW Gallery.

Raymund Fernandez, one of the founding partners of Lunâ, said the project was facilitated by Bobi Valenzuela, a Manila-based curator who is internationally renowned for championing contemporary art in the Philippines and for being a staunch ally of contemporary visual artists.

"Bobi can be considered the matchmaker and midwife of this project," said Fernandez. "He sold both groups to the idea even when we had no prior contact whatsoever."

Still, aside from being drawn under the salutary, if not critical, influence of Valenzuela, the common bent of both groups for producing works that fall under the rubric of contemporary art became some kind of contact glue.

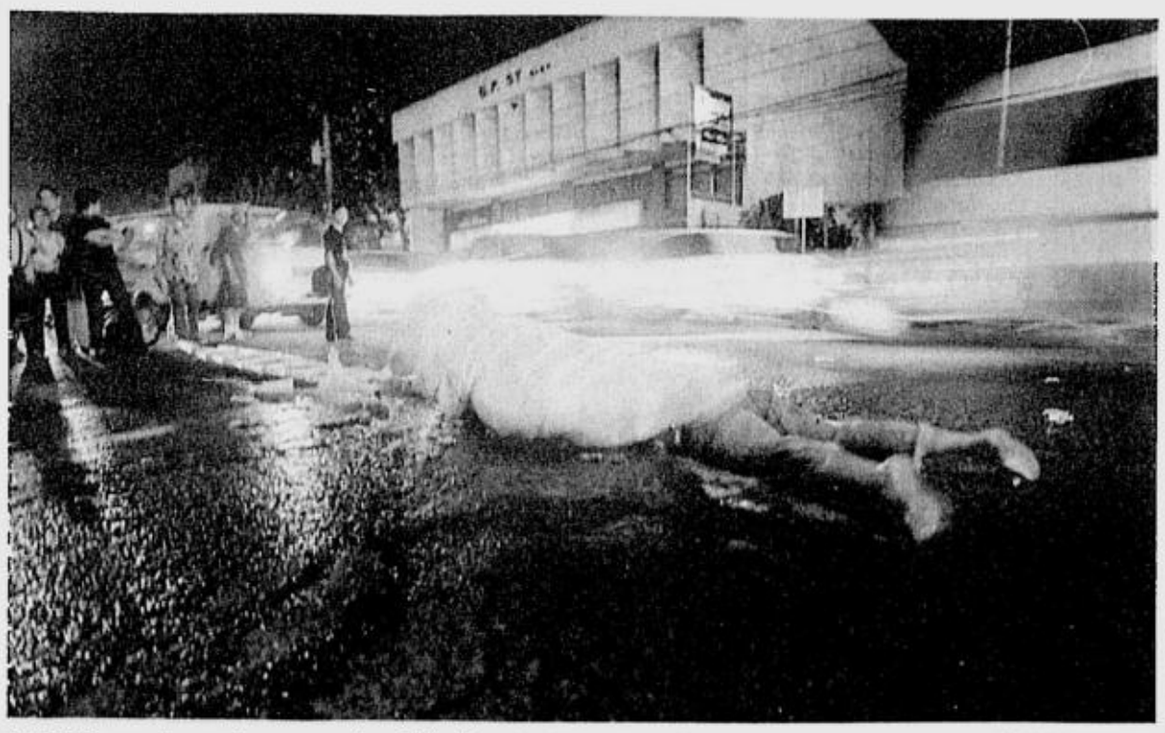
While the SBW exhibit at the Lunâ ArtSpace is not exactly Contemporary Art 101, it showcases works that have not been presented in the city.

Consider Wire Tuazon's painting-cum-large-print-billboard. At 12 feet wide, it is the biggest single non-mural painting ever to be exhibited in the city.

Mariano Ching's photo-documentary is made up of 58 5R (five inches by seven inches) photographs that cross through and around a post.

The postcard-in-zip-lock-plastic-bag gallery of Geraldine Javier fully blankets a four-by-four-meter steel hangar-type gate.

Then there is the map-clad full *labanderesque* with 35-mm slides on a clothesline ensemble by Lyra Garceliano.



WIRE Tuazon in a performance piece, "The Pursuit of Happiness." ARLENE SOLIS-CHUA

And Wire's riveting opening performance titled "The Pursuit of Happiness."

Aside from causing a minor traffic jam along Gorordo, it ". . . opened the mind of a lot of students who were grappling with their own performances for the upcoming MindWorks show," said Hana Nellas, a fine arts student at the University of the Philippines College Cebu and chair of the UP Fine Arts Students Organization.

It might have opened minds but not wallets, at least for now.

"Collectors are not so keen yet on patronizing contemporary pieces," noted Tuazon. "Still, we don't worry. We just enjoy our art, the works of like-minded artists, and most of all we just revel in living the fact that poverty loves company."

And produces great art, he forgot to add.

GMA: Call to arms a remote prospect

(From page A1)

with military use.

She cited the case of the Cebu International Airport, which, she said, was "very busy" although "a lot of American airplanes are already landing there."

She said her Cabinet would discuss on Tuesday the administration's preparations in line with the activities of the US-led International Counter-Terrorist Coalition (ICTC).

The President was to have a teleconference with Bush last night, but she said the details of her conversation with him would be "mostly confidential."

"No transcript" of the discussion will be issued, she said, adding that "it is better to be prudent at a time like this."

'Appropriate force'

The President said Thursday night that the Philippines' "cooperation" with the ICTC formally started with the visit to Subic Tuesday of Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander in chief of the US Pacific Fleet.

Sen. Blas Ople, chair of the Senate panel on foreign relations, said he would file on Monday a resolution authorizing the President to use "appropriate force" to help in the anti-terrorism war.

He said the resolution, which would have the force and effect of law, would also appropriate the necessary public funds to support the Philippines' participation in the ICTC campaign.

The budget will be separate from the regular budget of the military or funds allotted for its modernization, he said.

According to Ople, his proposed measure will be "very similar to the US congressional resolution" that authorized Bush to launch the anti-terrorism campaign.

He said the resolution would also allow the use of the former US military bases in Subic and Clark, although he noted that "they are already doing that without a resolution."

But Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said such a resolution might not be necessary because the President already had the powers to implement the provisions of the MDT as well as the UN Security Council resolution seeking a common fight against terrorism.

"I'm not sure if there would be additional powers needed by the President. I'm not really comfortable with giving extra or additional power to the President," Legarda said, adding:

"If she's not asking, why should we propose? Why should give more than what she already has?"

'Overeagerness'

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo chided Malacañang for being "overeager" and said it even surpassed "staunch allies of the US like Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which up to now have not yet made clear the extent of their support for fear of a backlash from their Muslim population."

Ocampo said the President "got too forward in offering commitments."

"By offering to send Filipino troops, we've already maximized what we can offer. She should slow down and be more cautious," he added.

Retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia also said the sending of Filipino combat troops abroad should be the government's last priority.

Abadia, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, said the government should instead focus on the extermination of the Abu Sayyaf, which the United States had linked with Osama bin Laden, prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in America.

"If we solve the Abu Sayyaf problem, we would have contributed significantly to the war against international terrorism," Abadia said. "First things first."

Ocampo challenged the President to lay down a "clear legal basis" for the offered use of Clark and Subic as transshipment points for US war material and military personnel.

He said this arrangement was brought up and later turned down by the Philippine government during deliberations on the VFA late in the Ramos administration.

"There's no provision in the VFA allowing the US to use its former bases, or our bases, for stockpiling of material and stationing of troops—except during joint military exercises which are periodically scheduled," he said.

Ocampo was most irked by reports that Fargo slipped into the country Tuesday to "inspect" the facilities in Subic.

"What authority does he have to do that? Is Subic still a US base that he can just come here for a check? Isn't Subic already ours?" Ocampo said.

Legarda, however, said she had no objections to the President offering the use of the former US bases, provided that the provisions of treaties governing this were complied with.

'Justice, Not War'

Members of Bayan and the party-list group Bayan Muna also held a protest action yesterday in Davao City, and formed a coalition called "Justice, Not War" to ensure that their position would be amplified.

"We will not stop urging the Macapagal administration to stop giving military support to the US and committing its soldiers and people to this worldwide madness," said Alvin Luque, secretary general of Bayan-Davao.

In Manila, leaders of the two groups and of Sanlakas warned of more protest actions.

"With a single pronouncement, President Macapagal-Arroyo managed to reverse history and subvert the people's will," said Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño. "What she has essentially done is (commit) the country to a new military basing agreement with the US."

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said it was ironic for the Macapagal administration to support the "US war of aggression" when America had yet to apologize for its "terrorism against Samareños and the brutal Fil-Am War."

"We remain steadfast in our position that militarism is not the solution to any and all conflicts, including the terrorist strikes on American citizens. Only peace with justice will settle the score between both camps," Fortaleza said. ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum, Volt Contreras, Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, Carlito Pablo and Juliet L. Javellana in Manila; Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

NY Pinay dances to help promote Muslim culture

(From page A1)

sic, sometimes about the sun and moon.

"This took place in the evening, after the acacia trees closed their leaves, the bats flew to get food and the miniature lizards croaked while we ate yams and *saba* (thick bananas)," Manis says.

When she learned how to walk, the young princess was exposed to dances accompanied by *kulintang* music. She also learned how to sing, chant and play the instruments.

As a member of the Maranao elite, she was expected to carry on these traditions.

Revolution

"Culture and art are more effective in revolutionizing people. They penetrate the heart, mind and soul," says Manis.

Her work is influenced by the political turbulence in Mindanao, where Muslim separatists have fought for independence for decades.

Manis' father was involved with one of the secessionist groups, the Moro National Liberation Front. Periodically, his townspeople fled when the military attacked.

Under an assumed Christian identity in the early 1970s, Manis attended a Catholic nursing college in Davao City where she, like many students then, worked with peasants and poor farmers and campaigned for candidates running against dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was overthrown in 1986.

Marcos' forces arrested and tortured Manis, who was detained by the military for three years.

One of the ballets performed by Kinding Sindaw was "Parang Sabil (Sword of Honor)," a dance about a tribe's revenge for the rape of their princess by American soldiers.

It is based on a ballad of the Tausugs, another Muslim group.

"I never knew how rich our culture is," said a thrilled Ernestlyn Velasco, who was raised in the United States. "Filipinos are much too Americanized."

Trial by fire

In "Rajah Mangandiri," royal court maidens in long, colorful sarongs and hair filled with pearls gracefully imitate fish, birds, butterflies and ocean waves with their hands and arms, and royal suitors in headdresses and silk suits kick a rattan ball.

The ballet was first presented last year. Excerpts were shown in various cultural programs this summer.

Like the wandering Prince Rama in "The Ramayana," the hero Mangandiri undergoes many trials and weds a princess who is then abducted. He rescues her with the help of his army and a monkey prince.

Later, the princess is forced to prove her fidelity by undergoing a trial by fire, which in the dance is represented by long red bolts of cloth woven around upright bamboo poles.

Inside the "fire," the princess skillfully steps in and out of a grid of crisscrossed bamboo poles, which are clapped together on the ground in rhythm with chimes, a Jew's harp and the *kulintang* (gongs).

The dances, the martial arts, music, chants, costumes and the story itself are products of centuries-old exchanges with neighboring Malaysia and Indonesia, as well as China, India and the Middle East.

Muslim missionaries and noblemen came to these sultanates during the 13th-16th centuries and married into the ruling families.

Through them, current members of royalty trace their lineage to the Prophet Muhammad.

Mindanao is home to Muslims, Christians and non-Islamic indigenous groups. ***AP***

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Andok's rips TPG

CABANATUAN CITY—The depth of Andok's San Juan was evident yesterday as the Knights pounded the debuting TPG Davao Eagles to submission, 108-81, at the Araullo Gym here.

Six Knights drilled in twin digits as they steadily ripped the game apart from a tight first quarter and posted their second straight win after an opening day loss.

Fil-Am Kalani Ferreria, showcasing his ferocity and intensity on the court, earned best player honors for the first time with 15 points, six rebounds, one steal and one assist for the national titlist Knights.

The Eagles, now being backed by The Professional Group, did put up a struggle behind prized acquisition Genesis Sasuman and Richard Caliao but finally wilted due to the pressure defense being applied by the Knights.

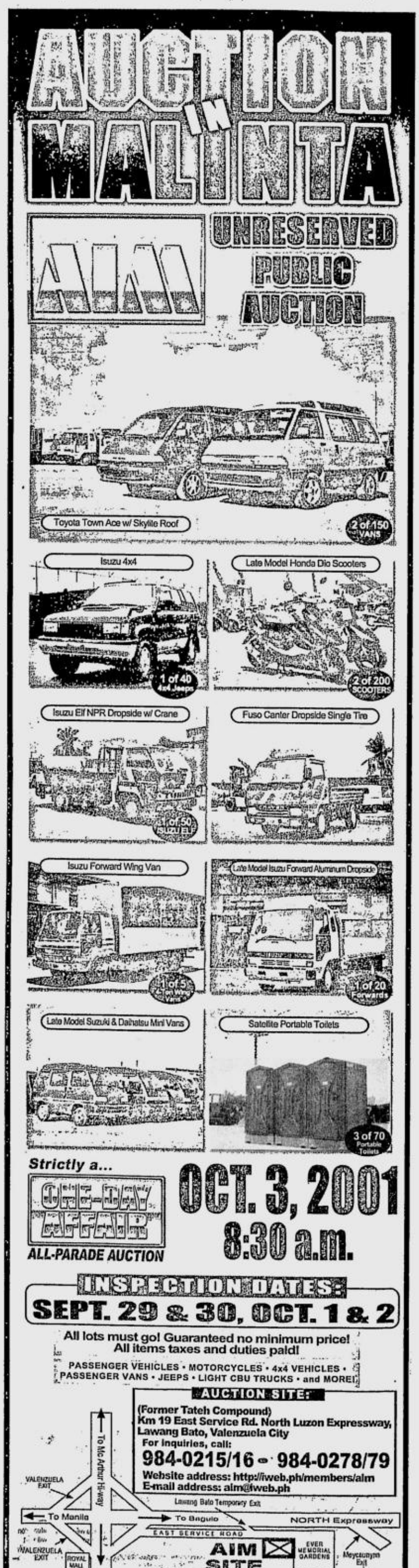
Apart from forcing the Eagles to numerous errors and turnovers, the Knights also flaunted their offensive might with Bruce Dacia topscoring with 19 points, followed by Chris Calaguio with 16. Other Knights who contributed were Gilbert Castillo and Randy Alcantara with 12 each and Danny Capobres with 10.

Fact is their combined output of 84 would have been enough to down the Eagles. LBC Batangas and Nueva Ecija are still battling at presstime.

ANDOK'S SAN JUAN 108—Dacia 19, Calaguio 16, Ferreria 15, Castillo 12, Alcantara 12, Capobres 10, Reavis 8, Aying 7, Rodriguez 2, Newton 0, Banares 0.

TPG DAVAO 81—Caliao 23, Sasuman 13, Dela Rosa 10, Simon 8, Bernardo 7, Maloloy-on 6, Marata 4, Daja 4, Bonleon 3, Lopez 2, Santander 1.

Quarters: 22-20, 51-41, 75-58, 108-81.



SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

MOTOR SPORTS: 2001 F1 Qualifying—American Grand Prix tomorrow at 2 a.m. on Star Sports
SBK Superbike Magazine Highlights at 8:30 a.m. on Star Sports
Max Power at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
TENNIS: ATP Tennis Show at 8 p.m. on ESPN
WTA Toyota Princess Cup, Semifinals at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Stags gun for title

Games Today (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
1:00 p.m.—San Beda vs Letran (jrs)
3:30 p.m.—San Sebastian vs JRU (srs)

BY JUNE NAVARRO

SAN Sebastian College aims to nail its first title of the millennium against Jose Rizal University in Game 2 of their NCAA Finals encounter today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Stags, owner of five straight championship rings in the '90s (1993-97), are pumped up to add another crown in their cache of diadems at the 3 p.m. setto after stealing Game 1, 77-74, last Thursday.

Deprived of a title after being beaten by College of St. Benilde in the Finals last year, the Stags won't see another bridesmaid finish in the making if coach Turo Valenzona is to be believed.

"In the past, majority of those who went on to capture the championship won Game 1," said Valenzona, a three-time PBA champion coach in the '80s.

"And by the looks of it, momentum is on our side. We just have to sustain our defensive stamina for 40 minutes," he added.

Although the odds are stacked heavily on the Stags, the Heavy Bombers are not about to hand over the championship on a silver platter.

According to JRU coach Boy De Vera his wards should put premium on concentration in the endgame.

"We'll bounce back. There were a lot of mental lapses down the stretch and we're hoping to rectify it this time around," said De Vera.

The Heavy Bombers planted an auspicious advantage in the third quarter only to be detonated by the Stags in the final period.

The Stags maimed the Heavy Bombers' hopes after Roy Falcasantos scored on drive with 48 ticks left that altered the complexion of the game.

Archers don't want Game 3

BY DENNIS U. EROA

ONE WIN away from clinching the prestigious UAAP four-peat and La Salle isn't about to paint the town red yet.

"They (Archers) showed grace under pressure but it's not over until it's over," said team manager Terry Capistrano, whose cool demeanor during cliffhangers reflects La Salle's kind of game.

Despite trailing most of the time, La Salle escaped with a 74-68 win before some 18,000 spectators last Thursday at the Big Dome. That was the third straight time that the Archers beat the Eagles this year.

Like Capistrano, coach Franz Pumaren believes that Ateneo is capable of coming back and sending the best-of-three series to a decider. "Ateneo will not reach this far if it's not capable of coming back. That's why we don't want Game 3," Pumaren said.

Game Two is set on Oct. 4 with the Green Archers aiming for a sweep and fulfill Joe Lipa's pre-series prediction that he only has two games left as Eagles coach.

To prevent another Archers' motorcade, the Eagles must realize that the formula of success remains simple: Play excellent basketball from the opening tip-off to the final buzzer.

Shell wins

SHELL weathered Noy Castillo's one-man show to eke out a 95-94 squeaker over Purefoods last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Dale Singson provided the crucial defensive stops and the basket that mattered most in the stretch as the Turbo Chargers defied the 31-point outburst of Castillo.

It was the Turbochargers' second victory in four games, joining San Miguel Beer and Barangay Ginebra at the same flight with identical 2-2 cards.

Working on a skeletal force due to injuries that plagued their slotmen, the Hotdogs leaned on Castillo, who scored 17 of the Hotdogs' last 19 points.

Pop Cola exploited Tanduay's manpower deficiency to prevail, 94-76, and seize solo second at 3-2 in the second game. Tanduay plunged to 1-4.

Talk N Text faces Batang Red Bull at 4 p.m. in Dumaguete City today. *June Navarro*

Jolet shines

DEFENDING champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-YRS Racing Team returns to the scene of his past triumphs when the National Super Bike Championships 2001 resumes tomorrow at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Almost unstoppable in his Yamaha r6, Jao will seek his fourth win in six races in the expert category in this series organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association and sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association.

Jao, the only local rider to win titles in motocross, road racing and scooter, has a runaway score of 115 points based on the 25-20-16-13-11 scoring system.

Blockbuster fight

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ONE of the most eagerly awaited fights in boxing history is tomorrow's bout between Felix "Tito" Trinidad and Bernard Hopkins.

Trinidad is an icon who is today considered as Puerto Rico's greatest boxer, surpassing the legend of such Puerto Rican greats like Jose Torres, Wilfred Benitez and Wilfredo Gomez. He is the odds-on favorite tomorrow against Hopkins, the American slugger whose rise to fame is a story cut out of a Hollywood script.

(The fight will be aired over RPN 9 starting with the undercards at 9:30 a.m., according to RPN executive Philip Tan.)

While Trinidad was raised by a doting father who was the featherweight champion of Puerto Rico in the '70s, Hopkins grew up in the mean streets of Philadelphia. As a teener, Hopkins survived two stabbing incidents, one of which pierced his lungs and the ice pick used fell short of hitting his heart. He was 14 then. The following year, he was stabbed again, this time in the back.

"The guy who did it, I know I did something wrong to him," said Hopkins. "But I did so much wrong to so many people that I don't know what it was. I have teethmarks all over my hands from the street fights I was in."

Why is Trinidad the odds-on favorite tomorrow?

Trinidad is unbeaten in 40 fights, with 33 knockouts. When he turned pro 11 years ago, he knocked out his first 5 opponents and 9 of his first 10 opponents. His record of 29 knockouts in 33 fights gave him one of the highest knockout percentages of any boxer in history.

Tito's punching power has never diminished since he debuted as a pro on March 10, 1990 by knocking out Angel Romero in the second round. His last three fights spoke volumes of his strength.

On July 22, 2000, Trinidad stopped Mamadou Thiam in 3 in his first defense of the World Boxing Association junior middleweight title he won from David Reid on points on March 3, 2000.

In his second defense of the 154-pound crown, Trinidad knocked out Fernando Vargas in the 12th on Dec. 2, 2000. Then on May 12, Trinidad knocked out William Joppy in the 5th round to capture the WBA middleweight title.

Three magnificent kayo victories going to tomorrow's fight with Hopkins. Isn't that formidable, indeed?

In contrast, Hopkins' last three fights included two victories on points and one by TKO—over Antwun Echols in the 10th round on Dec. 1, 2000. Before that, Hopkins decisioned Syd Vanderpool on May 13, 2000. In his last fight before tomorrow's bout, Hopkins beat Keith Holmes on points on April 14 to add the World Boxing Council middleweight title to his IBF middleweight belt.

While Trinidad is unbeaten in 40 fights, Hopkins has lost twice for a 39-2-1, win-loss-draw record, with 28 knockouts.

Be that as it may, it will still be a blockbuster fight as the bout has been much ballyhooed to recall the classic Hagler-Hearns encounter in the '80s.

Tomorrow's fight will unify Trinidad's WBA crown and Hopkins' IBF and WBC titles.

Who will be my bet? I'll tell you tomorrow.

Trinidad aims to unify crown

NEW YORK—The middleweight division, one of boxing's original eight divisions, has lost its glamor over the years when legends like "Sugar" Ray Robinson, Carlos Monzon and "Marvelous" Marvin Hagler held the unified belt.

It has been 14 years since Hagler was the last undisputed middleweight champion.

On Saturday night at Madison Square Garden, Felix Trinidad and Bernard Hopkins will fight for the unified belt and join the list of greats.

'Brawl at the Wall' back

BEIJING—The "Brawl at the Wall" title fight between World Boxing Association heavyweight champion John Ruiz and Evander Holyfield is back and set for Thanksgiving weekend in Beijing, organizers said Thursday.

Dance sport today

A RECORD cast of more than 100 couples will strut their wares in the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines' 5th National Dancesport Championships-Alaxan Cup at 2 p.m. today at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

According to DSCP president Becky Garcia, the European professional 10-dance champions John Byrnes and Jane Lyttleton of England, will perform a five-dance number and act as adjudicators with Japan's Keiji Ukai, presidium member of the International Dancesport Federation and president of the Asian Dancesport Federation.

For details, call Vicky Cabrera at 635-0116 or 0919-3216443 or Ruby at 752-0435 to 36.

SEAG stars get ₱11M incentives Monday

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

TUASON

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo and officials from the Philippine Sports Commission are set to hand at least P11 million in incentives to Southeast Asian Games medalists in a dinner party on Monday at Philsports.

PSC chair Butch Tuason said the PSC will give a total of P8.7 million for all the medal winners as part of its incentive scheme, while an additional P2 million will come from the GMA (President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) Foundation.

Gold medalists get P100,000 each, silver P50,000 and bronze P25,000, apart from the cash gift for team event winners, according to Tuason. The Philippine amassed 30 gold, 66 silver and 67 bronze medals during the recent Kuala Lumpur SEA Games.

"We want to make sure that our athletes will get the best we can afford," said Tuason, who stressed that the PSC is meeting the officials from each of the national sports association to make sure that nobody is being neglected.

"Our communication lines are open," said Tuason, referring to the athletes and NSA officials, who are reportedly planning to launch a protest rally also on Monday.

"If there's somebody who is not happy with what we are doing at the PSC, I'm sure it's not the athletes but some people who have dark agenda," said Tuason in reaction to the protest march reports and the white paper circulating, lambasting his administration.

RP nears World Cup berth

THE underrated Philippine duo of Danny Zarate and Rodrigo Cuello gave the high-caliber field another big surprise with a two-under-par 70 to jump to solo fourth and stay in the hunt for a World Cup slot in the Davidoff Asian Nations Cup at the Royal Selangor Golf Club in Malaysia.

Blending well in the alternate shot format, Zarate and Cuello trailed joint leaders Norway, China and host Malaysia by just two strokes with their 10-under aggregate for 36 holes as they boosted their bid for one of the six slots in the World Cup set Nov. 15-18 in Japan.

Play returns to four-ball better ball format today before tomorrow's alternate-shot final round.

In Mobile Alabama, Dorothy Joy Delasin had a bizarre round of even-par 72 yesterday and was tied for 16th after the first round of the $750,000 AFLAC Champions Presented by Southern Living at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

The scorecard of Delasin, who trails solo leader Mi Hyun Kim by seven, included an eagle, four birdies, two double-bogeys and two bogeys

Kim fired a 65 to lead Dottie Pepper by two strokes with defending champion Karrie Webb among those in third after a 69.

Jong Arcano

Happy days here again

THANK you to the many who comforted us during our time of grief—RFM's Elmer Yanga, Quinito and Menchu Henson, Bert and Tina Ramirez, Larry Mallari and Tower Publishing, Sports Radio's Kenneth Garcia, Lorenzo Manguiat and our batchmates from Xavier 1972.

***

MICHAEL Jordan's back—again—and his first appearance in his "Third Coming" on Oct.30—the start of the 2001-02 NBA campaign—pits his Washington Wizards against the New York Knicks.

What bigger stage than Madison Square Garden is there for MJ's return to the league after a three-year sabbatical?

Until the 38-year-old Jordan's comeback decision, the Turner Sports cable television network TBS had scheduled an opening-day doubleheader that features Philadelphia at Minnesota in the first game and Portland at LA Lakers in the main dish.

Now, the 76ers-Timberwolves telecast has been shelved in favor of the Wizards-Knicks encounter. Cashing in on Jordan's first NBA appearance since June 1998, TBS is assured of starting the season with a big bang in the TV ratings.

Jordan, who is expected to play small forward for new Wizards coach Doug Collins (Mike's mentor during his early Chicago Bulls days) instead of his old big guard spot, registered some of his greatest games in Madison Square Garden (which is neither in Madison nor square). Included were his only two playoff triple-double performances on May 9, 1989 (34 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists) and June 2, 1993 (29, 10 and 14).

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

Senior golfest Oct. 16

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Senior Golfers Inc. will stage its 2001 Interclub Championship in three venues on Oct. 16, 17 and 19, FPSGI president SP Malbarosa announced yesterday.

Malbarosa said the Riviera Golf and Country Club would host the first round on Oct. 16. The second round will be held at the Club Intramuros on Oct. 17, while the final round will be at Wack Wack on Oct. 19.

There will be team and individual competitions according to handicap levels.

Expected to head the entries are Riviera, Villamor, Southwoods, Intramuros as well as other provincial squads.

Interested parties may call the Federation Office at 723-0665 local 105 or 118

Wind Blown, Sun City ready

CURRENT track sensation Wind Blown and import standout Sun City (USA) recently completed their final track works at the San Lazaro Hippodrome as they geared up for their showdown in tomorrow's P1.5-Million TAB Philippines Philracom Open Championship Race.

Dubbed as the real "Challenge to Champions," the 1,900-meter championship will showcase the best of Philippine horseracing in a battle royale that guarantees the winner a whopping P1 million. The top purse is sponsored by multi-service gaining integrator TAB Philippines Inc., lead partner of the Manila Jockey Club in its nationwide off-track betting expansion.

Fresh from three major race victories since his PCSO Silver Cup romp last April, Wind Blown is likely to be the prohibitive favorite for the big race. The massive galloper has had four official track works this month, the latest being his 1:47 clocking over a mile last week at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Our Hope 2. Secret Currency 3. Secreto 4. Speed Empire

Race 2—1. Spirited Lady 2. Perfect Gift 3. Dragon Doding 4. Nyora Aiding

Race 3—1. Queen of Less 2. Boogie Shoes 3. Despedida 4. Looks Like It

Race 4—1. Iron Fist 2. Gentleman Jim 3. Wild Guess

Race 5—1. Snake Dancer 2. Lucky Gambit 3. Cover Story 4. Grand Dragon 5. Manila Mauler

Race 6—1. Time Street 2. Palachik 3. Regimental Lass 4. Real McCoy

Race 7—1. Love and Kisses 2. Celebration 3. Main Street 4. T Square

Race 8—1. Picardy 2. Roman Leader 3. Agimat 4. Friendly Lover 5. Lucky Swing

Race 9—1. Staunch Ally 2. Hazme Lady 3. Bishop King 4. Tumataginting 5. Perfect Storm

Race 10—1. Dynamite Miss 2. Gemstone 3. Hostile Witness 4. Silent Wind

Race 11—1. Party Princess 2. Yoko Lady 3. Show Money 4. Danielle's Angel 5. Easy Win

Race 12—1. Hinobaan's Pride 2. Magic Fingers 3. Double Header 4. Always on D Go

Race 13—1. May's Magic 2. Diligence 3. Denon 4. Ceasar's Inn 5. Standout 6. Mr. Positive

SPORTSWATCH

Zed Gulf Oil drivers eye titles

THE RED-HOT drivers of the Zed Gulf Oil MP Turbo Racing team will attempt to clinch the titles in two categories in the final rounds of the 2001 Shell Philippine National Touring Car Championships slated over the weekend at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. The most prolific team in the Subic Grand Prix Series is backed up by Zed, Gulf Oil, the world's premier lubricant specialist, and MP Turbo Race and Rally Shop. Other benefactors re BLTB Co., Francisco Motors Corporation, Gomaking Trading, Abante Newspaper, Yehey.com, AER Engine Rebuilders/ATI Diesel, Rota Wheels and Bavarian Motor Works.

Sagupaan invitational begins

IT will be a fight to the finish betweer Metro Manila's well-known cockers and Pampanga's derby champions as the "Sagupaan 5-Stag Bigtime Invitational Derby" gets going at 6 tonight at the Pampanga Coliseum, San Fernando City. Some 65 fights are lined up in this stagfest promoted by Patrick Antonio, host of the Sagupaan TV show (12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.) every Saturday at IBC-13. The champion stands to receive P500,000 plus trophy.

Ucap stages 65 fights Tuesday

A BIG field is seeing action in Mandaluyong Coliseum's "4th Ucap/Arnis Master 7-Stag Derby" on Tuesday and Thursday, Oct. 2 and 4, to be hosted by popular sportsman Raymond Velayo. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampo. Since more than 65 fights are lined up on Tuesday's elimination round, the derby will start at 5 p.m. Submission of weights is on Monday, Oct. 1.

BMJ derby slated at Roligon

COCKING aficionados will be treated anew to breath-taking encounters with the holding of the BMJ 5-Stag Derby today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Hosted by Boy Gamilla, this derby will be participated in by ASF & Company, Kapitan Peking Correa, Vic Yu, lawyer Rudy Salud and cockers from Antipolo, Malabon and Batangas. Promoter is Danny Ty.

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TONE SATISFAC

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Nelly Furtado
TONE IMLIKEA

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Christina Aguilera
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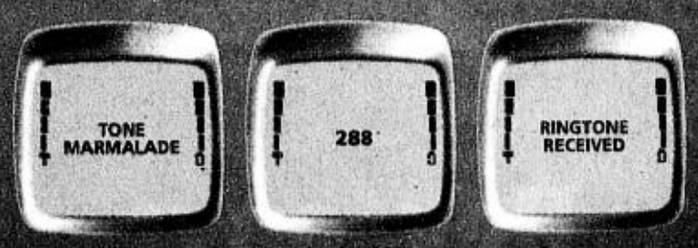

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METRO

IQUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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- Shabu merchant gets death A21

'No compromise on oil depot phaseout'–Atienza P. A22

Public pay toilets on Edsa

ABALOS

ATIENZA

BY NELSON F. FLORES

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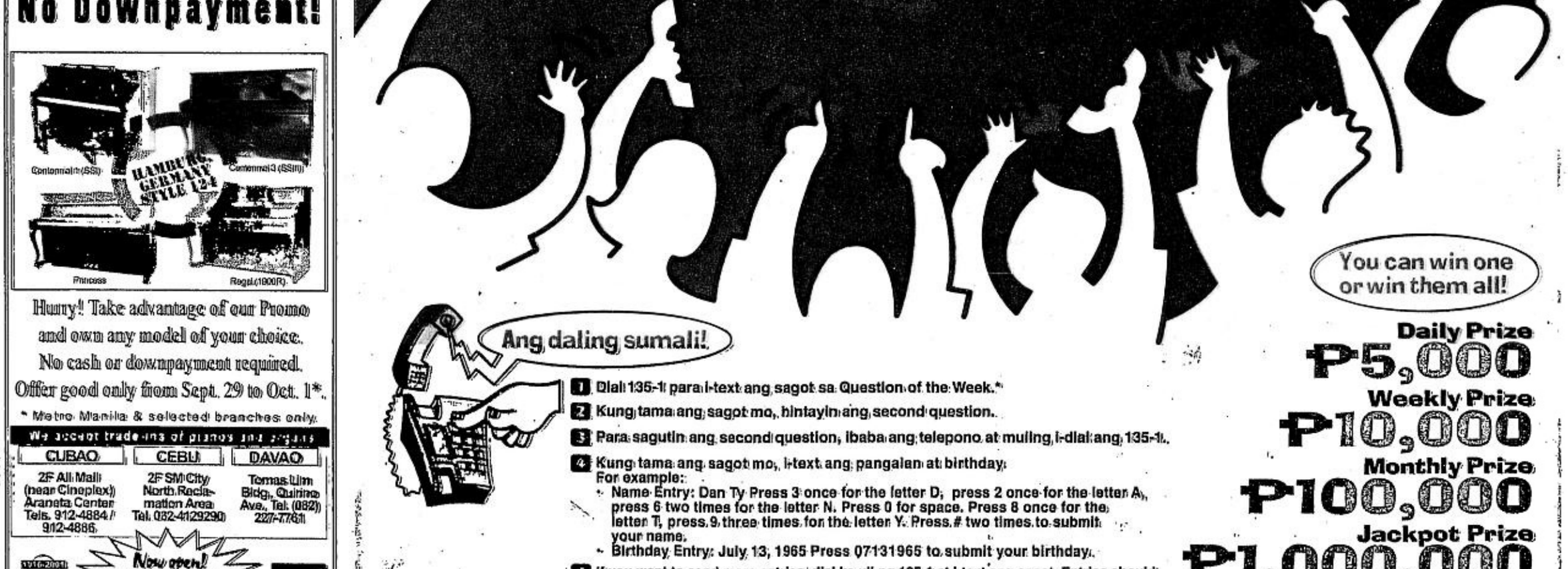

SILENCING THE CRITICS

PART 1

A Historic Take-Off to Wider Economic Horizons (The NAIA International Passenger Terminal 3 Project)

• The government gains a $500 M state-of-the-art facility.
• NAIA will nearly double its income from P812 M to P1.54 B. This includes the annual guaranteed revenue of P510 M - P710 M and the 5%-10% share on gross revenues and a 36% share on terminal fees at IPT3.
• There would be no job loss; instead, the project will provide more job opportunities for Filipinos. In fact, the IPT3 construction has already generated over 3,000 jobs.
• Increased commercial activities in the IPT3 will boost RP economy.
• Increased international air traffic, increased property values and increased revenues.
• IPT3 will improve tourism.
• Passengers will be guaranteed more safety and security.
• The project's top-of-the-line services and passenger-friendly features make it at par with the world's first-rate terminals.
• With this new facility, Filipinos can now enjoy first-class service found only in the finest international passenger terminals. This gateway to the Philippines will make everyone of us truly proud to be a Filipino.

The truth about the GRP-PIATCO Concession Agreement on the NAIA IPT3

THE LIE	THE TRUTH
• The Concession Agreement for the project was surreptitiously amended to include provisions favorable to PIATCO and grossly disadvantageous to government.	* This is not true. The amendments were scrupulously studied and reviewed by the government implementing and oversight agencies (DOTC, MIAA, CCPSP, ICC-NEDA).
• The government agreed to assume PIATCO's debts to its foreign lenders should the company default in payment.	* There is no such provision in the agreement. There is no direct government guarantee on PIATCO's loans for the project. Direct guarantee means that in case of default, government pays PIATCO's loans in PIATCO's behalf without the benefit and possession of the facility. This is not the case here.
• If the mortgage on the facility is foreclosed by its lenders, the government will be deprived of the very project it contracted to PIATCO.	* The contract does not provide that when the mortgage is foreclosed, ownership and possession of the facility will go to PIATCO's lenders.
	* In case of default, the government has two options: 1) terminate the contract, pay PIATCO the appraised value of the facility and take possession of the same, or 2) allow lenders to look for another operator to replace PIATCO.
	* In either option, PIATCO is not benefited because: 1) it foregoes all stockholders' equity; 2) it forfeits all concession and franchise; 3) it loses all business opportunities at NAIA IPT3
• The government is last in line in PIATCO's payment obligations since under the agreement, PIATCO can postpone its payments should it run short of funds.	* The government will get its due. There is no provision that allows PIATCO to postpone its payments. If PIATCO runs short of funds, and cannot pay the government, it will be subjected to penalties specified in the contract.
	* Unpaid balance shall be paid within the 90-day period with interest equal to the average 91-day Treasury Bill rate. If PIATCO cannot comply within the grace period, a spread of 5% over the TB rate shall be imposed until full payment.
	* In such cases of temporary illiquidity of PIATCO, priority is given to administrative and operational expenses, followed by payment of loans and revenue for government. This is consistent with existing laws and jurisprudence on obligations and contracts.
• The government would suffer a P1.2 B loss annually under the revenue arrangement in the concession agreement.	* Another lie. The government would even double its income from P812 M to P1.54 B once Terminal operations start. Refer to the table:

Landing and Take off Fees from NAIA 3	100%	936,371,409.00
Annual Guaranteed Payment		510,000,000.00
Share in Revenues		
Terminal Fees	36%	233,088,523.20
Gross Revenues	5%	56,937,673.69
Total Revenues from NAIA T3		**1,736,397,605.89**
Less:		
Share of Government	14.0662%	244,244,855.22
BCDA Rental		158,710,750.00
		402,955,605.22
Net Operating Income from NAIA T3		**1,333,442,000.67**
Add:		
Net Operating Income from NAIA T2		214,933,111.91
Total Projected Operating Income of MIAA in 2003		**1,548,375,112.58**
Operating Income of MIAA in Year 2000		**812,011,484.00**
Amount more than MIAA Income		**736,363,628.58**
Percentage		**91%**

** Computations were based on 2000 MIAA Figures.*

* MIAA-NAIA Association of Service Operators (MASO) cannot question the fairness of PIATCO's financial offer to government considering Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp.'s (AEDC) P5 M annual offer as compared to PIATCO's P510 M - P710 M.

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL AIR TERMINALS, CO., INC. (PIATCO)

Survivors want charges vs Manor owners amended

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

SURVIVORS and relatives of the victims in the Quezon City Manor Hotel fire want the charges of reckless imprudence resulting to homicide and serious physical injuries filed against the hotel owners amended to the more serious offense of multiple homicide.

Lawyers assisting the Manor fire victims are planning to formally ask the court to amend the charges even as the victims met last night to lay down their plans for the expected drawn-out legal battle.

Named respondents in the case were William Genato, his wife Rebecca, Porfiro Germina, Marion Fernandez, Dionisio Cua Arengino and Antonio Beltran—all incorporators of the company that owned Manor Hotel.

The leader of another group of fire victims, Ozone Victims' Foundation president Joseph Santos, said prayers and inner strength are what the Manor fire victims need most to avoid temptations.

Santos warned the Manor fire survivors and the victims' relatives that many temptations would come their way, especially now that a case had been filed in court.

"Based on our experience in the Ozone tragedy, owners tried to persuade relatives of the victims and the survivors themselves to enter into amicable settlements with them," Santos said.

Except for about two persons, the survivors and relatives of the Ozone Disco fire pursued their cases.

"It helped a lot that we have an organization because we get strength from each other," Santos said.

Already, at least two survivors in the Manor fire were reportedly offered money to settle their case.

But Pastor Abraham Ricanor, a survivor in the Manor Hotel dawn fire and one of the organizers of the Manor Victims' Foundation, said they were still trying to verify the reports.

Lawyers of the Ozone Victims' Foundation led by Rod Domingo had been giving legal assistance to the Manor fire victims.

In amending the charges to homicide instead of reckless imprudence, Santos said that the Manor House tragedy resulted from the deliberate actions of the owners. In reckless imprudence cases, respondents are unaware of their actions, Santos said. But in the case of the Manor Hotel, the fire resulted from the deliberate actions of hotel owners not to do anything about their violations on the fire safety code, he added.

As early as August 2000, the Bureau of Fire Protection warned the hotel that it had committed several violations of fire safety measures.

Santos said they also obtained documents that would show that as early as last year, the Quezon City Hall already recommended the closure of Manor Hotel because of its violations.

At least 81 people died in the dawn fire that razed the hotel last Aug 18. Nine of them died later in hospitals.

Most of the victims were members of different born-again Christian groups who attended a three-day conference of a Texas-based evangelist.

Shabu merchant gets death

BY JEROME ANING

A MANILA regional trial court judge yesterday meted out the death sentence on a Chinese businessman whom police caught selling three kilos of shabu three years ago.

William Ching, 39, a garments seller and native of Amoy, China, with residences on Tomas Pinpin and San Fernando streets in Binondo, Manila, and Tarlac City, Tarlac, is said to be a member of the notorious 14K Gang.

Judge Teresa Soriaso of Manila RTC Branch 27 also asked Ching to pay a fine of P3 million.

The judge said the case against Ching is aggravated by the fact that a Quezon City RTC had previously convicted him of drug pushing in October 1995.

Court records showed that an eight-man team from the national police's Anti-Narcotics Group arrested the suspect during a buy-bust operation near a Petron gas station on San Fernando Street in the afternoon of Oct. 19, 1998.

An informant went to the ANG headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City, and reported Ching's alleged drug activities to ANG officials Chief Insp, Leonardo Suan and Insp. Ramon Arsenal.

SPO1 Alfredo Cadoy of the ANG posed as a buyer and bought 3,076.28 grams of shabu worth P2.1 million from Ching. The accused was promptly arrested and charged.

The defense presented as witnesses Ching, his two nieces, his sister, a pedicab driver, a utility boy, a vendor and a housemaid, who all claimed that the policemen entered Ching's unit at Building 488 on San Fernando Street and dragged the accused to a waiting van.

Ching, backed by the witnesses, said the policemen blindfolded and handcuffed him, and even tried to choke him by wrapping his head with a plastic bag.

The accused said the lawmen then tried to extort P10 million from him but he refused. Ching said he was electrocuted and forced to admit ownership of the drug cache.

But Judge Soriaso said Ching's account was "obviously self-serving and deserves the barest consideration." She also said the police "convincingly" proved that there was a drug transaction and that Ching was the seller.

Cager robbed with ATM card

BY AGNES DONATO

BASKETBALL star Dorian Peña on Thursday decided to forgive his driver who had used his ATM card to rob him of P40,000 in Pasig City.

But Peña, 23, a player of Philippine Basketball Association team San Miguel Beer and a resident of Barangay San Antonio, Pasig, fired his driver Jerry Navarro Paragas, 30, of Barangay West Crame, San Juan.

Supt. Antonio Aguilar, Easter Police District Criminal Investigation Division (EPD-CID) chief, said Paragas admitted to the crime and promised to return the money to Peña.

Paragas was arrested Thursday afternoon after Peña confirmed that four unauthorized withdrawals were made from his account through automated teller machines (ATM).

Peña said he suspected that his driver had been robbing him when he checked with the UCPB branch in Pasig City and was told that his account balance was only about half of what he expected.

Peña said he had previously asked his driver to withdraw money for him through the ATM. Paragas at first denied the charges when Peña confronted him.

But during police interrogation, the driver admitted he made two withdrawals from Peña's account on Sept. 23 and Sept. 24 and two more on Sept. 25.

At least P20,000 of the stolen money was found in the trunk of Peña's Ford Expedition.

Makati recruits 'spies'

THE MAKATI Anti-Drug Council is recruiting spies to be deployed in the city's 33 barangays as part of the project called "Vice Watch," which aims to make the city drug-free by Dec. 31, 2001.

Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, chair of the Anti-Drug Abuse Council (Madac), said 10 undercover agents would be deployed in each of the city's barangays to monitor and report to the Madac illegal drug activities and other crimes.

Night markets a la HK

BY NELSON FLORES

IF Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. can have his way, secondary roads in the metropolis would be converted to night markets similar to those in Hong Kong.

Abalos said that aside from becoming a major tourist destination, the night markets would also ease the traffic problem of Metro Manila and would be the source of additional income for the host local government.

Night markets would also give local government officials control over vendors, he added.

"These would be the places to go during nighttime," Abalos said.

He said local government executives should set aside spaces in their areas of jurisdiction for the night markets where vendors of all kinds could sell their wares. But he added that night markets should be setup in secondary roads similar to what Hong Kong did in Mong Kok district.

Public ...

(From page A19)

corners could be a thing of the past, at least along Edsa.

The MMDA said public pay toilets would soon dot the 15-kilometer stretch.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. revealed this as he vowed to turn Edsa into the country's greenest and most environment- and commuter-friendly thoroughfare. He said the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. would finance the construction of the toilets while the Philippine National Police would provide security and maintenance.

Abalos said the toilet fee would be affordable to the ordinary people and would go to the daily maintenance of the toilets.

The project is still in its pilot stage and if it proves to be successful would be implemented all over Metro Manila, he said.

Erap feared Lacson

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

ANOTHER vital witness against Sen. Panfilo Lacson has come out to testify against the former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief.

POl Jonathan A. Morales, former member of the intelligence division of the PNP Narcotics Group (Narcgroup), said he ran drug errands for Lacson. He also said that he executed at least two big-time drug pushers upon orders of Lacson.

Morales described his job as Lacson's drug courier as "LBC *ng shabu*."

* * *

Morales said he was recruited by Supt. Pancho Adelberto Hubilla to join the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), which Lacson headed in a concurrent capacity.

His first job as a drug courier, Morales said, was to deliver 20 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) to a certain Jimmy Sy on F. Yuseco Street in Manila.

Morales said he took part in the abduction and murder of a Boyet Melendres and a Jaypee Silverio. The two were taken to a place in Cavite where they were killed and burned *ala* Bubby Dacer.

* * *

Morales' testimony is in the form of a sworn affidavit signed in the presence of state prosecutor Gina Bibat-Palamos. He is under the protective custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

Morales' testimony corroborates the allegations of Mary Ong, a.k.a. Rosebud, and Angel "Ador" Mawanay that Lacson engaged in the drug trade when he was still in the police service.

The testimony also gives credence to earlier allegations that Lacson was behind the abduction of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito. The manner in which Melendres and Silverio were disposed of was similar to the execution of Dacer and Corbito. All four were burned after being killed. The place of the executions of Melendres, Silverio, Dacer and Corbito was Cavite.

* * *

Melendres and Silverio, according to my PNP sources, were probably executed because they were grabbing a share of the market that Lacson's drug henchmen controlled.

Melendres was a dismissed policeman who was a distant cousin of Joy Melendres, one of ex-President Erap's mistresses. The sources said that Boyet Melendres was dropping Joy's name, but this did not help him any because he was rubbed out upon Lacson's orders.

Lacson's order to have Melendres "salvaged" probably didn't have Erap's blessing. The former president would have prevented Lacson from killing Melendres on account of Joy.

* * *

Lacson was a very powerful figure during the Erap presidency. He was so powerful he didn't consult Erap on many things. He made decisions without informing his boss.

Take the case of the setting up of the Police Foundation, Lacson's brainchild. He didn't consult Erap. The foundation aimed to raise P1 billion from donations from the private firms and individuals to help the PNP buy modern arms, vehicles and communications equipment.

When Erap learned about it, he was offended. As the chief executive, he was invited to attend the foundation's launching at the Manila Hotel, but he didn't attend it.

* * *

Erap's no-show at the foundation's launching was reflective of Lacson's utter disrespect for his commander in chief.

When somebody whispered to Lacson that Erap would not grace the occasion, the PNP and PAOCTF chief got red in the face. In front of so many guests, he reportedly kicked and overturned the chair reserved for Erap.

How did Erap react to Lacson's apparent insult to his position? Erap just gave Lacson the cold shoulder by not talking to him for a long time and not inviting him to go on the presidential trips. Lacson's action would have merited his relief as PNP and PAOCTF chief.

Erap was very much afraid of Lacson.

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Extorting cops deserve death, Muslims say

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

MUSLIM groups in Metro Manila want the death penalty imposed on six policemen who allegedly kidnapped and extorted money from Muslim businessmen.

Prof. Taha Basman, president of the Philippine Islamic Council, yesterday said the death penalty should be imposed on the policemen if only "to teach them a lesson."

Basman said the policemen had been preying on Muslims in the wake of government crackdown on suspected terrorists in Metro Manila.

"They have been terrorizing Muslims for a long time," Basman said. "It's time to bring justice to us."

A Muslim businessman in Manila filed charges of kidnapping, car theft, and robbery against Chief Insp. Michael Angelo Martin, Insp. Allan Jing Medina, PO3 Arnold Asis, PO2 Pedro Gutierrez, PO2 Nilo de Paz, and PO2 Antonio Berida Jr.

The suspects, all former members of the Northern Police District, allegedly snatched businessman Maca-Angcos Alawiya, Isagani Abdul, and Zarah Langco in Manila early this month.

Alawiya owns a number of jewelry stores in Quiapo, Manila, according to Basman.

The victims were on board a Mitsubishi Pajero on U.N. Avenue in Manila when the policemen reportedly hit the Pajero deliberately to force them to stop, investigation showed.

The policemen allegedly took the victims at gunpoint and released them only after they paid P700,000 and gave the suspects two new vans.

A week after the alleged abduction and extortion, the same group of policemen arrested another Muslim, businessman Omra Macmac, from his Pasig house for alleged drug trafficking. Macmac was detained at the NPD headquarters in Caloocan City.

Basman said Macmac could have been another victim of "hulidap" had not around 100 Muslims stormed the NPD headquarters to demand the businessman's release.

One of the Muslims, a relative of Alawiya, noticed that the vans Alawiya gave to his captors were parked at the NPD compound, according to Basman.

"He realized that it was the same group (of policemen) who victimized his relative," Basman said.

No compromise in oil depot phaseout–Atienza

BY JEROME ANING

THE MANILA city government yesterday discounted any possibility of compromise on its stand that the Pandacan oil depot has to be phased out in six months.

Mayor Lito Atienza, who visited the depot with city fire officials in the morning, warned that City Hall would not renew the business licenses and permits of the three big oil firms using the fuel storage facility.

"There will be no compromise," the mayor said. "(The depot) has to go in six months because what is at stake here are the lives of Manileños, especially those living in the area."

Executives of the oil firms have told Energy Secretary Vincent Perez that it would take them 10 years to relocate. But Atienza noted that 10 years ago, Petron Corp., Caltex Philippines and Pilipinas Shell told the city government that it would take them 10 years to transfer.

"Now, they are again saying the same thing," he said. "(But) we are not interested anymore in hearing that it cannot be done or it would take another long time."

He said the oil firms should prepare their technical requirements and start moving out because City Hall "will not accept anymore delays."

He also brushed aside the claim of the oil firms that the transfer would entail substantial costs and could lead to an increase in fuel prices.

"They have been using that to scare us for a long time," Atienza said. "They are engaged in a business and should be prepared to make the necessary investments."

He said that at any given time, there are about 300 million liters of fuel and other petroleum products stored or flowing in or out of the depot's complicated underground pipe system.

"The issue here is not about taxes or revenues or a possible increase in the prices of petroleum products," he said. "It's the lives that continue to be at risk because of the presence of the facility."

Fire officials have admitted that they are not adequately equipped to deal with a big fire that could strike the depot. City and national officials have also said that the depot is a fire hazard and is vulnerable to a terrorist attack.

Atienza pointed out that no security or safety measures could guarantee that a catastrophe would not take place in the depot and wipe out the densely populated Pandacan and the nearby Sta. Mesa and Sta. Ana districts.

"We can only undertake preventive measures, but there is really no absolute defense against a deliberate attack, especially by elements who are willing to use the most unconventional and brutal means," he added.

The DOE wants to undertake first a comprehensive study to determine how the phaseout would affect the fuel industry, the prices of fuel products and their distribution.

'Cyber pirates' dens' raided

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

INTELLIGENCE agents of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) raided the offices of two Internet service providers that allegedly made illegal international calls and provided illegal Internet access using Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) lines.

PLDT allegedly lost P1 million a month after the "cyber pirates" illegally tapped into the telecom giant's phone lines.

Deputy Director General Edgar C. Galvante, NCRPO chief, said his men raided the offices of Planet Internet Corp./Mercury One and World Wide Web Corp. for "stealing millions with illegal long distance calls and Internet access using state of the art computer systems interfaced with PLDT lines."

He said international terrorists could use these companies as "illegal gateways" because "such connections are relatively cheaper and untraceable."

Tondo 'fire man' falls

BY JEROME ANING

QUIÑOLA

A 43-YEAR-OLD alleged drug dependent accused of starting the big fire that destroyed a slum at the Manila North Harbor in Tondo was captured by a Philippine Army official before dawn yesterday.

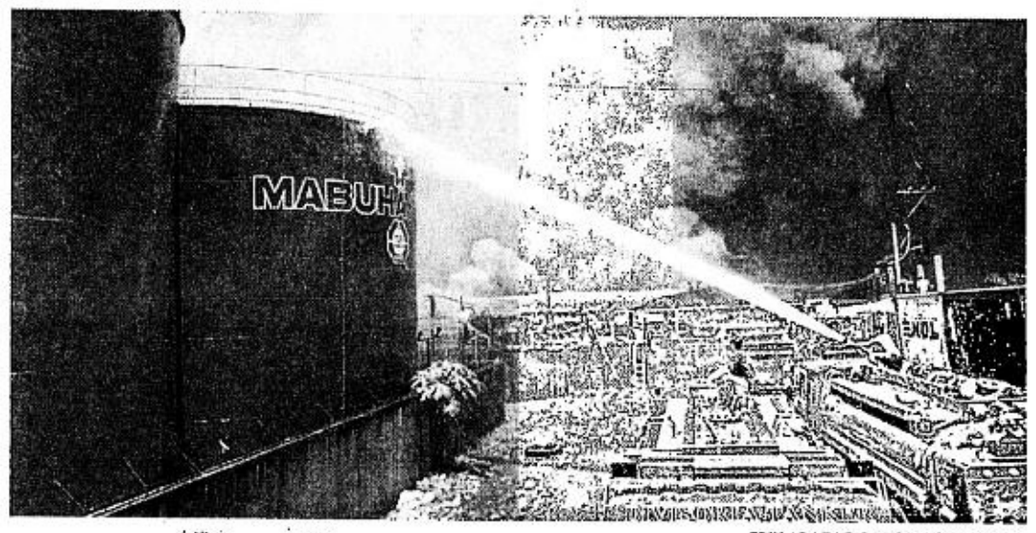
Jojo Quiñola, alias Jojo Buwaya, was sleeping on the sidewalk at Pier 14 when he was spotted and recognized by residents around 3:30 a.m.

Maj. Agane Adriatico, of the army's civil relations services and who lives nearby, arrested the suspect and notified fire officials.

Chief Insp. Fennimore Jaudian, head of the fire bureau's arson division, said Quiñola was positively identified by a 15-year-old girl as the one who caused the fire.

The girl claimed she saw Quiñola pour kerosene on his own shanty and set it on fire, the fire official said.

The flames spread and destroyed at least 300 shanties in the Happyland community near Pier 18 on Thursday. About 20 people were slightly injured and about 1,000 families lost their homes.



ERIK ARAZAS, RANDY HORMILLOSA

The fire hit a slum and a chemical plant on Road 10 in Tondo.

Fire and police investigators are still looking for four minors reported missing by barangay authorities after the three-hour fire. Chief Insp. Jaudian said his team did not find any human remains at the fire scene.

Jaudian said P5 million worth of property was destroyed. Also scorched were two fire trucks worth P11 million each. One belonged to the government while the other belonged to a Chinese volunteer fire brigade.

"I can't understand myself," the suspect told reporters when they asked why he started the fire. "My neighbors know why I did it and it's because of my family—they left me."

He said he used a lighter to set the curtain of his house on fire.

He also admitted being hooked on illegal drugs but he said he did not take any when he set his house on fire. He said he had been depressed because his wife Joy and their five children left him.

Bus robbers kill policeman

A MEMBER of the Northern Police District was killed while trying to accost at least five bus robbers in Caloocan City on Thursday.

PO1 Michale Gabito, 27, a member of the NPD Drug Enforcement Group and a resident of Baesa, Quezon City, was shot dead about 5:45 p.m. inside a bus on C-4 road, investigation said.

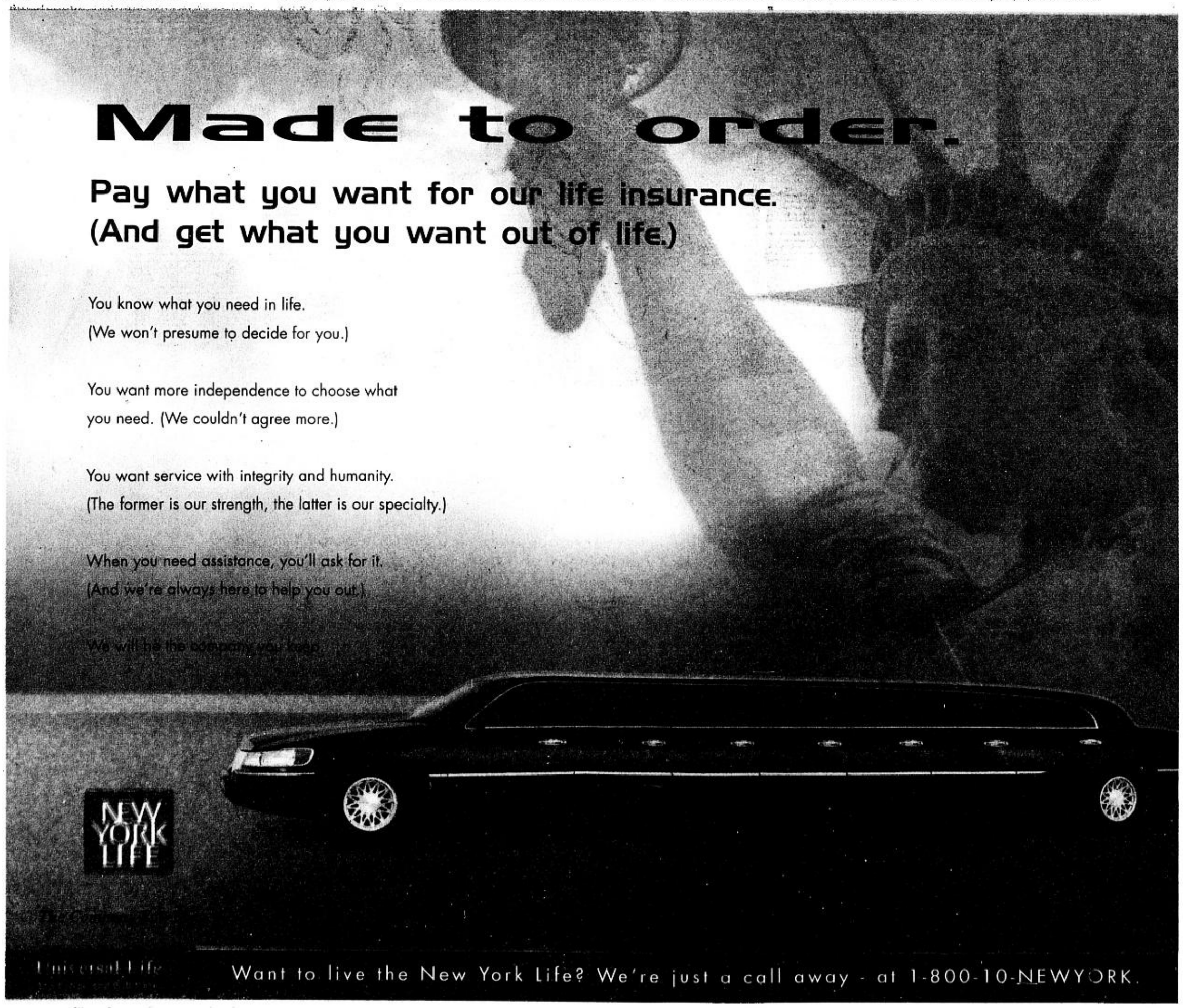
Gabito was on board a Jeronell passenger bus (PXP-103) bound for Manila when the robbers, armed with knives, announced a holdup, police said.

Police said Gabito stood up, drew his .9 mm pistol and tried to arrest the suspects.

But one of the robbers, identified as Wilfredo Sabio, 28, engaged Gabito in a scuffle for the gun and managed to shoot the policeman in the thigh.

Gabito died on the way to the Pagamutang Bayan ng Malabon.

Christian V. Esguerra



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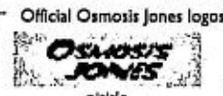

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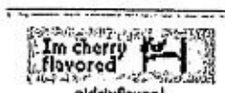
(Picture Message/Screen Saver)



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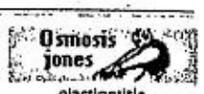

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To Get Osmosis Jones...	Key In...
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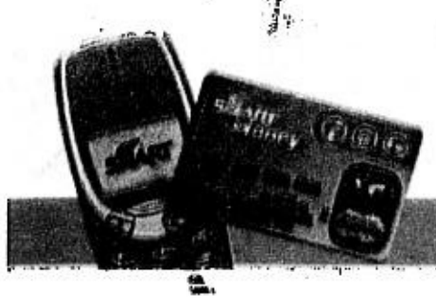
Promo Mechanics:

1. From Sept 29 - Oct. 2, 2001, all Smart Cinema Club members who download a logo, picture message, group graphic or screen saver get one computer-generated point each. The top 100 Cinema Club members with the highest points collected will win two free premiere movie passes each for Osmosis Jones at Robinsons Movieworld - Galleria, Cinema 2, on Oct. 5, 2001, 8:00 p.m. To know the number of points accumulated, key in DPOINTS and send to 239.
2. Smart Cinema Club winners will be notified via text message or a voice call to their registered cellfone number only.
3. Smart Money cardholders who use their card to buy any movie ticket at Robinsons Movieworld - Galleria from Sept. 28 - Oct. 2 are entitled to a pair of Osmosis Jones premiere tickets.
4. Winners of both promos can claim the prizes on the night of the premiere, Oct. 5, 2001, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Smart Cinema Club Booth in Robinsons Galleria, near Cinema 2.
   A. Smart Cinema Club winners must present their active Smart GSM cellfone with the winning SIM number and valid I.D. w/ photo.
   B. Smart Money winners must present their Smart Money receipt (proof of purchase) used to purchase movie ticket/s in Robinsons Galleria from Sept. 28 to Oct. 2. They can avail themselves of the promo only once.
5. Promos are valid for GMA residents only.

In cooperation with: Powered by: Information Gateway

Want an inside the body adventure? Play the Cinema Club Quest!
In this game, you are a regular white blood cell on a mission to stop a rash. Good luck, dear cell!
Start your mission!
Key-in PLAY <OJ/OJ2/OJ3> and send to 239.
Sample quest question:
Ambushed thrax! But he has Drix as hostage. Thrax starts his way back into the colon. You and Drix exchange glances. What do u tell him?
1. Stay strong. I will find you.
2. Fire ur cannon n d air
3. Xchange places w Drix
4. Bye-bye. Na use f yo both dis. right!
To answer simply press REPLY and key in the number and send to 239.



SMART Money **Use your Smart Money MasterCard to pay for movie tickets at the counter and get two free movie passes!**

SMART *Simply Amazing!*

See flyers for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3128 Series of 2001.

SABARRE

Odon Sabarre daughter missing

NO ONE has heard from Pearly Dawn Sabarre, 18, since she disappeared on Sept. 14.

Her father, ballet dancer Odon Sabarre, has asked the National Bureau of Investigation for help in locating his daughter.

Sabarre, the first Filipino scholar to Russia, said he last saw his daughter about 8 a.m. on Sept. 14. She was bound for the Makati Sports Club on Leviste Street in Salcedo Village, which was just across the Sabarre residence.

She left the house clad in a white T-shirt and red leggings, and was carrying a comb and a cell phone.

There was nothing out of the ordinary that morning when she left for the gym to work out, Sabarre said.

That was two weeks ago.

Pearly Dawn is a high school graduate from the Sacred Heart and Holy Infant College in Tacloban.

Her father took her to Manila a year ago after Pitoy Moreno spotted her in Tacloban City and decided to groom her as a beauty contestant.

Pearly Dawn is 5-foot-8 and has long wavy hair.

Anyone who may have any information as to her whereabouts can get in touch with her father at 813-3682, care of Jo Sabarre, or Gloria Salva at 735-7386.

Fires hit City Hall, PNCC

FIRES yesterday broke out in a councilor's office at the Manila City Hall and at the Philippine National Construction Corp. in Mandaluyong City.

The Manila fire started at 5:10 p.m. in the fourth-floor office of Councilor Pacifico Laxa in the west wing of the City Hall. The office was being renovated, said the mayor's spokesperson, Armand Sebastian.

Security men put out the fire 15 minutes later.

The PNCC fire started at 3:05 a.m. in the training room on the ground floor of the building on Reliance Street corner Edsa, said arson investigator SFO1 Roman Sta. Ana. Firemen put out the fire at 5:35 a.m.

Among the objects destroyed by the fire was a seven-foot-tall antique image of the Virgin Mary. Investigators suspect that the fire originated at the altar, which had several electric candles. *Jerome Aning, Agnes Donato*

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie. Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173888

1	SCARY MOVIE 2
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	BANYO QUEEN
5	FAST & FURIOUS
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	PUKYUTAN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 8295452

1	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	PUKYUTAN
5	HEART BREAKERS
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	PRINCESS DIARIES
8	FAST & FURIOUS
9	SCARY MOVIE 2
10	LA VIDA ROSA
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	ENEMY AT THE GATES

SM CENTERPOINT 7246522-7181418

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	FAST & FURIOUS
4	SCARY MOVIE 2
5	PRINCESS DIARIES
6	PUKYUTAN
7	KNIGHT'S TALE
8	ENEMY AT THE GATES
9	ORIGINAL SIN
10	BANYO QUEEN

SM SOUTHMALL 8066688

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	PUKYUTAN
6	SCARY MOVIE 2
7	CLOSED
8	FAST & FURIOUS
9	ORIGINAL SIN
10	KNIGHT'S TALE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9359749

1	A.I.
2	ENEMY AT THE GATES
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	KNIGHT'S TALE
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	HEART BREAKERS
8	PRINCESS DIARIES
9	ORIGINAL SIN
10	SCARY MOVIE 2
11	LA VIDA ROSA
12	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820605

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	ENEMY AT THE GATES

SM CEBU 2313836

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	KNIGHT'S TALE
3	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	MANO MANO 2
6	BANYO QUEEN
7	SCARY MOVIE 2

SM CITY MANILA 5238240

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	ENEMY AT THE GATES
6	KNIGHT'S TALE
7	A.I.
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	LA VIDA ROSA
10	BANYO QUEEN
11	SCARY MOVIE 2
12	PRINCESS DIARIES

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	CLOSED
3	SUGAR & SPICE
4	SEX MEDUSA
5	MANO MANO 2
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	CLOSED
8	SCARY MOVIE 2

SM MEGAMALL 6331801 • 6329401

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	ORIGINAL SIN
6	KNIGHT'S TALE
7	ENEMY AT THE GATES
8	SCARY MOVIE 2
9	BANYO QUEEN
10	LA VIDA ROSA
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	A.I.

SM PAMPANGA 7136015

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	CROCODILE 2
4	BANYO QUEEN
5	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
6	LA VIDA ROSA

SM SUCAT 8354915

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	HEART BREAKERS

SM TUTUBAN 2514302

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	LA VIDA ROSA

SM DAVAO

SOON TO OPEN
6 STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE THEATERS

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	GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)	GLORIETTA 4 (All Digital Sound)		GREENBELT	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1	LA VIDA ROSA	HEART BREAKERS (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	ORIGINAL SIN (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	LA VIDA ROSA (DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND)	FAST & FURIOUS (DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND)
2	FAST & FURIOUS	FAST & FURIOUS (DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	PRINCESS DIARIES (DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND)	FAST & FURIOUS (SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND)	HEART BREAKERS (DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)
3	HEART BREAKERS	FAST & FURIOUS (DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	LA VIDA ROSA (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	HEART BREAKERS (DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND)	PRINCESS DIARIES (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)
4	PRINCESS DIARIES	FERDINANDO & CAROLINA (Exclusive Phil. Premiere) (DTS DIGITAL SOUND) — Art Film		MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! SEPT. 27,28 & 29-8PM — Onstage	ORIGINAL SIN (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)
5					LA VIDA ROSA (DTS DIGITAL SOUND)

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest — Festival Cinema

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2 (SDDS)	HEART BREAKERS
3 (DTS)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4 GOLD (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
6 GOLD (SDDS)	ORIGINAL SIN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8 (DTS)	BANYO QUEEN
9 (DTS)	LA VIDA ROSA
10 (DTS)	LA VIDA ROSA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	HEART BREAKERS
4	PUKYUTAN
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3 (Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE
3	LA VIDA ROSA

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	BANYO QUEEN

Starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	HEART BREAKER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FAST & FURIOUS
5	PUKYUTAN

Metropolis (Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	FAST & FURIOUS
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	PUKYUTAN

Premiere Cinema (Makati City) Tel. 7053152 - 55

FAST & FURIOUS

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SHREK
2	BANYO QUEEN

FCM Fairview Center Mall, Inc. tel 930.9515

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	PITCH BLACK
3	FAST & FURIOUS

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BURLESK QUEEN
A	LA VIDA ROSA

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	LA VIDA ROSA
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	KNIGHT'S TALE
5	ORIGINAL SIN
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
8 (SDDS)	HEART BREAKERS
9 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	LA VIDA ROSA

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BANYO QUEEN
4 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS
5	HEART BREAKERS
6 (DOLBY)	PUKYUTAN
7 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
8	HEART BREAKERS
9	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	PUKYUTAN
5 (SDDS)	HEART BREAKERS
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8	ORIGINAL SIN

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	HEART BREAKERS
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	LA VIDA ROSA

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	LA VIDA ROSA

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SEXUAL MALICE
Lords	MAGENTA
Jennet	RESERVE

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	LA VIDA ROSA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto — SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	LA VIDA ROSA
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	PRINCESS DIARIES

New Divisoria Mall — DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3	PUKYUTAN
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT — LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	LA VIDA ROSA
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3	RESERVE

Berma tel 879-2029 or 30

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	PUKYUTAN

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2 (DTS)	LA VIDA ROSA
3 (DOLBY)	FAST & FURIOUS
4	LA VIDA ROSA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
4	LA VIDA ROSA

Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	ENEMY OF THE GATES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	ARMAGEDON
2	KAMASUTRA
3	PUKYUTAN
4 (DTS)	LA VIDA ROSA

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
4	CROCODILE
5	SCREAM 2

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	CROCODILE

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	CROCODILE
3	FAST & FURIOUS

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	
2	BANYO QUEEN
3	PUKYUTAN

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	CROCODILE
3	NURSE BETTY

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	LA VIDA ROSA
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	LA VIDA ROSA

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SCREAM 2
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ORIGINAL SIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	LA VIDA ROSA
4	BANYO QUEEN

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	CROCODILE
4 (DTS EX)	ORIGINAL SIN

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING — THX · DOLBY DIGITAL · dts · SDDS

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THX	FAST & FURIOUS
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	HEART BREAKERS
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	ENEMY AT THE GATES
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	ORIGINAL SIN
9	A KNIGHT'S TALE
10	PRINCESS DIARIES

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	A KNIGHT'S TALE
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	PRINCESS DIARIES

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVE
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	RESERVE
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	PRINCESS DIARIES

IMUS (046) 471-8168

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	HEART BREAKERS
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	LA VIDA ROSA

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	A.I.
5	ENEMY AT THE GATES
6	SCARY MOVIE 2

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX · dts · SDDS · DOLBY · DOLBY DIGITAL

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	LA VIDA ROSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	LA VIDA ROSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HEART BREAKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BANYO QUEEN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	CROCODILE 2
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PARU PARONG LIGAW / MAGENTA
ODEON	ORIGINAL SIN
ODEON-2	PUKYUTAN
ROBEN	LA VIDA ROSA
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SWORDFISH / FINAL FANTASY

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	PUKYUTAN
REMAR	LA VIDA ROSA
REMAR-2	PUKYUTAN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	LA VIDA ROSA
B	SISID (open Oct. 1, 2001 sneak preview)
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-2	FAST & FURIOUS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	MANO MANO 2
CINEMA-3	PUKYUTAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	A.I.
CINEMA-7	BURLESK QUEEN
CINEMA-8	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-12	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-14	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-15	BANYO QUEEN

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-3	HEART BREAKERS
CINEMA-4	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-5	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-6	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	APOY SA MAGDAMAG
CINEMA-2	ALFREDO LIM
CINEMA-4	RATRATAN

DOT employees to get bonus in 2003

EMPLOYEES of the Department of Tourism can expect an anniversary bonus no sooner than 2003 when the agency celebrates its 30th year.

Replying to a query from Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon, Budget and Management Secretary Emilia T. Boncodin said government employees may be granted anniversary bonuses in accordance with an adminstrative order issued by then-President Fidel V. Ramos on March 28, 1996.

But Boncodin stressed that anniversary bonuses may be granted only on milestone anniversaries of government-owned or -controlled corporations, government financial institutions and national government agencies and departments starting on the 15th year and every five years thereafter.

The DOT marked its 28th anniversary on May 11.

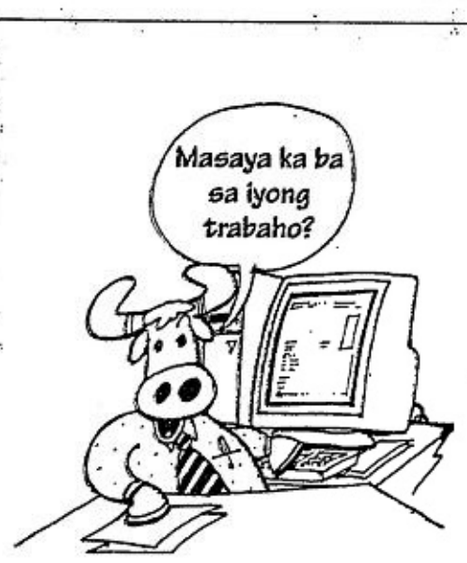
Gordon sought the opinion of Boncodin to get a definitive ruling on whether an anniversary bonus could be given to DOT employees this year.

According to the administrative order, the bonus will cover all types of officials and employees, whether their status is regular, part-time, temporary or casual.

The anniversary bonus shall not exceed P3,000 per employee, chargeable against the savings from released allotments for current operating expenditures of the concerned national government agency.

Gordon said the anniversary bonus would greatly enhance employee morale and show the government's appreciation of the work of its employees.

ARTFILM GLORIETTA 4 Art Film
AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
LINA WERTMÜLLER
Philippine Premiere
FERDINANDO & CAROLINA
The life and times of Italy's King Ferdinando are played for laughs in this comic historical piece directed by controversial director Lina Wertmuller. On his death bed in the 1820s, King Ferdinando I of Naples tries to escape the ghosts of his bloody kingship by remembering his younger days, when he was allowed to go hunting and have fun, and inventing love games. Then he was obliged to marry Maria Carolina of Austria, daughter of Empress Maria Theresa, in a political marriage: unexpectedly, they became happy lovers, until court power games divided them, and a different historical season arrived.
Language: Italian w/ English sub-titles
WARNING! The film is suitable for adults only due to strong sexual images, pervasive nudity, violence and language.



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JOB MARKET
www.inquirer.net/jobmarket

MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED
Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
"The car, truck & motorcycle stunts in the movie were performed by professional stunt drivers using proper safety gear in the presence of emergency ambulance & medical equipment. They should not be emulated nor done in the streets. Be SMART, DRIVE SAFE and STAY LEGAL."
FEEL THE NEED FOR SPEED!
SOUNDTRACK IN STORES
JA RULE SCARFACE FAITH EVANS
LIMP BIZKIT R.KELLY
DMX METHOD MAN REDMAN
PAUL WALKER VIN DIESEL
MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ
JORDANA BREWSTER
THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS
POWERED BY MOTOLITE
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
NOW SHOWING

SECOND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
Lead us into temptation
antonio BANDERAS
angelina JOLIE
ORIGINAL SIN
DISTRIBUTED BY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX THRU WARNER BROS.

Crisis looms in Malabon

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

MALABON City opposition councilors have been boycotting the city council sessions in protest of two administration councilors who allegedly defied a Commission on Elections order ousting them from the city council.

Councilors Rogelio Yanga and Isagani Santos were supposedly elected "by mistake" as the seventh councilors of their districts, said opposition Councilor Edilberto Torres yesterday.

Torres said any official function carried out by Yanga and Santos would be illegal following the Comelec ruling that Malabon's two legislative districts should only have six councilors each.

But Yanga and Santos said the Comelec order did not specifically refer to them as the councilors who should relinquish their posts.

Torres said Yanga and Santos continue to defy the Comelec order because they "enjoy the full support of the city administration."

He pointed out, however, that "there would be chaos if they continue to perform their duties."

Any resolution filed or any vote made by the two councilors would be unlawful since they are holding "non-existent" positions, Torres said.

He said he and other opposition councilors were advised by their lawyers not to join any council session where Yanga and Santos participate.

"It's obvious that their position as councilors are void," Torres said. "There's an order already and they have to leave."

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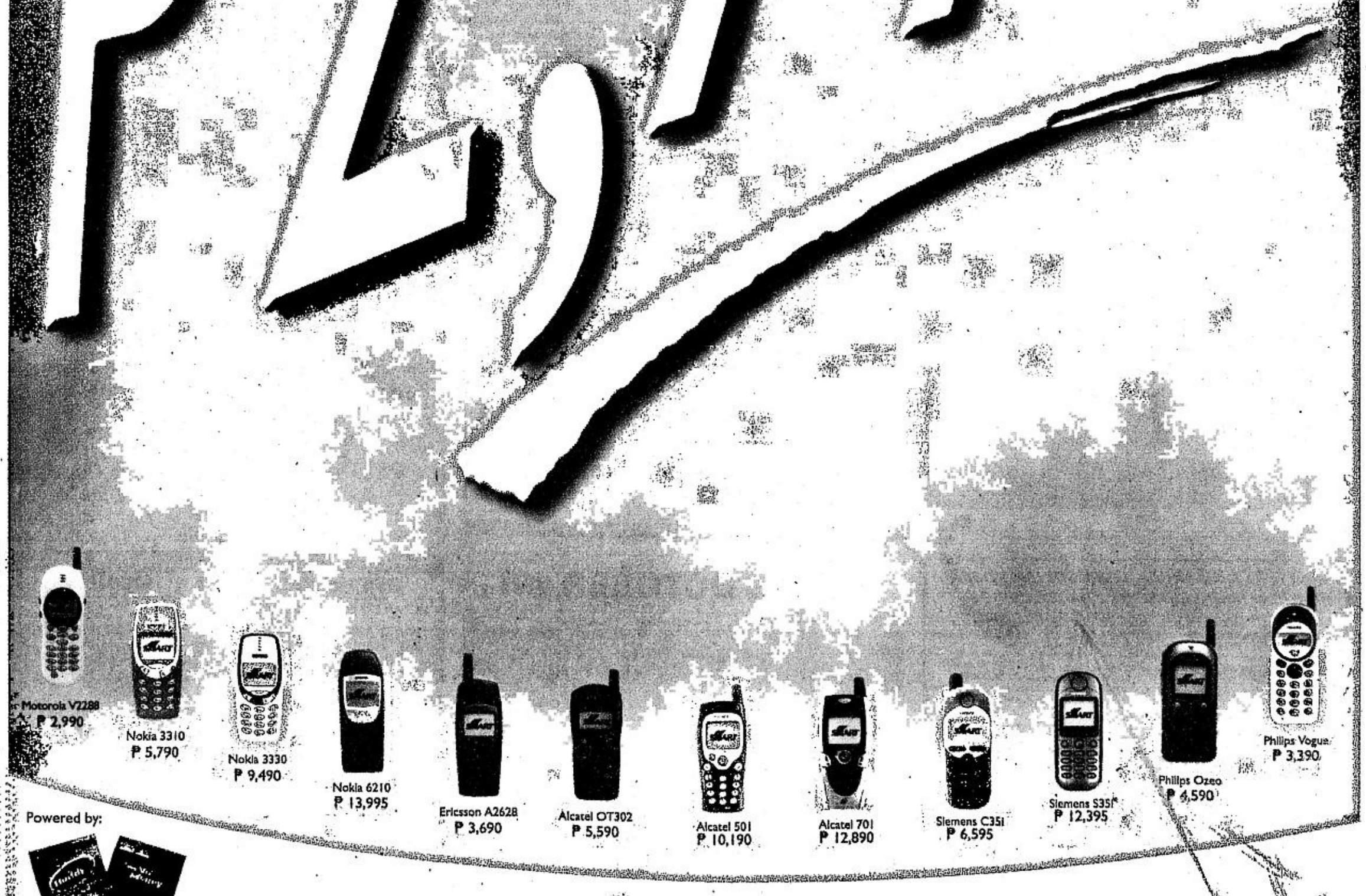

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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Manufacturing output contracts

INDICATORS

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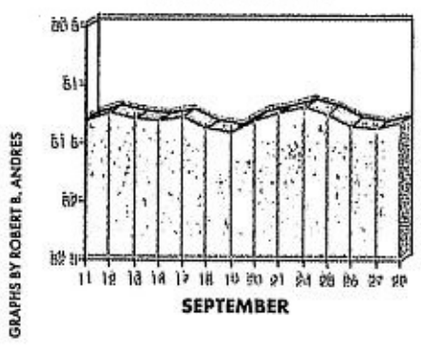


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 51.32 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 28, 2001

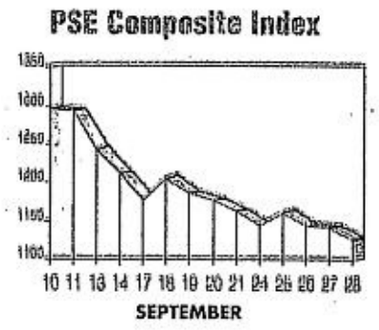
¥ 119.28 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 28, 2001

GOLD:$290.75/291.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 28, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares fall 1.3%

PSE Composite Index



SHARE prices yesterday fell 1.3 percent over uncertainty after the terror attacks on the United States and US threats of retaliation, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 14.96 points to 1,126.63.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

"We still have tension in Central Asia, in Afghanistan, and we don't know when the US will strike back," said Enrique Santa Ana of Vickers Ballas Securities Philippines.

Volume turnover rose to 369.63 million shares worth P398.01 million from 169.4 million shares worth P260.5 million the previous day.

"People don't want to hold anything during weekends" because of the uncertainty, said Manny Cruz of Mark Securities Inc.

Traders also said fears that certain highly leveraged local companies might face debt payment problems with the prospect of a prolonged economic slowdown globally kept the market depressed despite gains in other regional markets.

AFP

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE COUNTRY'S manufacturing output contracted by 2.1 percent year-on- year in July as exports continued to decline due to a global economic slowdown, the latest survey conducted by the National Statistics Office on selected industries showed.

The value of production, however, rose 11.4 percent in the same period reflecting increases in the prices of most commodities.

While manufacturers of basic products posted growth in output, industries dependent on exports registered contraction in their production.

The biggest losers, according to the survey, were the manufacturers of textile and electrical machinery whose production levels dropped 24.7 percent and 35.1 percent year-on-year in July.

Other sectors that posted decline in output in July were the beverage, petroleum products, paper/paper products, fabricated metals, tobacco, publishing/printing, rubber products, wood/wood products and furniture/fixtures manufacturers.

The best performer among the key sectors was the leather products sector that posted a hefty 245.7 percent growth in its July production volume.

The food sector registered a 28.9-percent improvement in production volume, while the footwear/wearing apparel industry managed a bigger increase of 74.9 percent, the NSO survey showed.

Other industry groups that showed increases in production volume in July included basic metals, chemicals, non-metallic mineral products, machinery excluding electrical and transport equipment.

Net sales of key manufacturing sectors during the period grew 6.3 percent in terms of value. This was slower than the 15.4 percent growth recorded in June. The volume of sales contracted 6.6 percent in the same month.

The proportion of manufacturers that operated at full capacity (90 to 100 percent) stood at 20.1 percent during the period. About 43.1 percent operated at only 70 to 89 percent capacity. Those that were operating at below 70 percent capac-

MANUFACTURING/ B2

Spex makes first gas delivery

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

SHELL Philippines Exploration BV on Thursday made its first-ever delivery of natural gas from the Malampaya field to the 1,000-megawatt Sta. Rita power plant in Batangas. This came ahead of the original schedule set for Oct. 16.

Spex managing director David Greer said in a statement that the gas was delivered through the 9.5-kilometer onshore pipeline from the gas terminal in Batangas City to the Sta. Rita plant.

"The Malampaya gas was first received by the offshore production platform on Sept. 11 and reached the gas terminal in Batangas City on Sept. 24," Greer said.

The platform located northwest off Palawan is connected to the gas terminal in Batangas with a 504-km subsea pipeline.

Greer said the terminal is capable of processing 500 million cubic feet of gas per day.

The Sta. Rita plant is one of three combined-cycle power plants in Batangas that will serve as the primary buyers of the Malampaya gas. The other two are the 1,200-mw Ilijan plant and the 500-mw San Lorenzo plant.

The Malampaya field is expected to yield 3.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas which, in turn, is seen to slash by a quarter the country's dependence on imported oil.

The gas is also expected to generate additional revenues for the government amounting to $8 billion to $10 billion over the next 20 years.

As operator of the Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project, Spex is responsible for building the upstream components needed to extract natural gas from 3 kilometers below sea level.

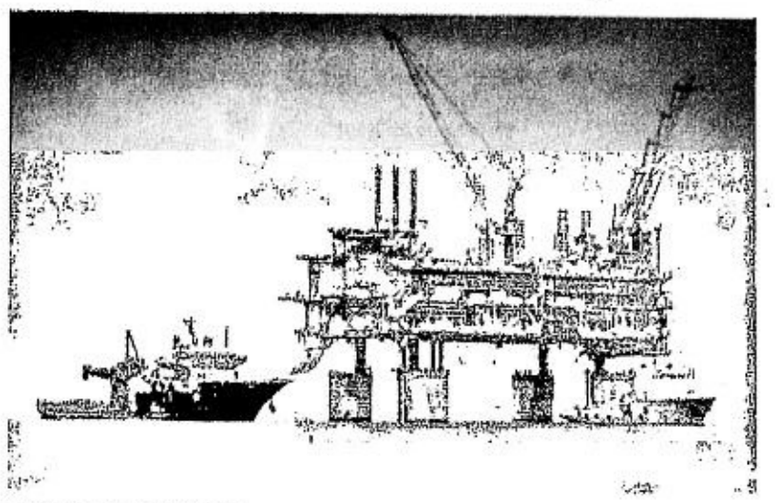
Spex owns 45 percent of the project while Texaco Philippines owns another 45 percent. The remaining 10 percent belongs to state firm PNOC-Exploration Corp.

In an earlier interview, Greer said Spex was also keen on putting up an $80-million pipeline that would bring the gas to Metro Manila.

"We are looking very seriously at the possibility of extending the Malampaya pipeline all the way to Sucat," Greer said.

"We are in preliminary discussions with our partners and the Department of Energy to see what could be done."

Greer said that whether the pipeline to Manila would be a separate project depended on what agreements or arrangements could be put in place for downstream natural gas power stations.



MALAMPAYA platform

Last month, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said two dozen economic zones along the route of the proposed pipeline were a potential market for the gas.

"Ecozone locators may have power generators that can be fueled by natural gas," Perez said.

The Malampaya consortium is also looking at parallel developments as possible markets for natural gas.

"Unless we have enough market, there can be no pipeline," Greer pointed out.

Bread and battery

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IF you possibly can, you must avoid being in manufacturing when our government feels heroic. The last time our government felt that way, it punished the manufacturing sector.

Manufacturing companies still remember how our heroes in the government agreed only a few years ago to open up the country to competition from abroad.

That's well and good, for who doesn't need a challenge? Except our government itself did very little to arm local businesses. Power cost here is still the highest in Asia.

As if our manufacturing sector was asking for it, our heroes agreed to remove tariffs completely on a lot of goods manufactured in Asean—and then more.

By 2003, under the Asean Free Trade Agreement, Asean members will remove tariffs on many goods coming from each other. In short, no more smuggling.

* * *

BUT in all other Asean countries, anyway, the "zero tariff" applies only to goods coming from other Asean members. Our government just had to go a step further.

All of the same goods from all other countries, even those that think of us as a mere dumping ground, like South Korea and Taiwan, will be levied zero tariffs by 2003.

Don't look now but that's around the corner. Just think that 2003 is only 15 months from now. Apparently, our government wanted our manufacturing sector dead.

A lot of our manufacturing companies are folding up simply because they cannot compete with imports. They would rather import the goods and sell them here.

Such a strategy, after all, can even lessen business headaches from things like labor problems. As a bonus, it can also contribute to the number of jobless.

* * *

NOW, one of the oldest manufacturing companies in the country, the maker of automotive battery called Ramcar, is trying to fight it out against imports.

This is the same company that, way back in 1919, started to service the batteries of the first cars in the country that were owned by PLDT's predecessor.

At stake for Ramcar today is its leadership in the domestic auto market. It accounts for 80 percent. Moreover, it exports about half of its production.

All those will be gone if Ramcar does not move fast. Thus, it is talking to its bankers for a loan restructuring, but it's a restructuring of a different kind.

I heard that, actually, bankers are surprised that Ramcar is asking for the restructuring. Ramcar has never been late in payments, even up to this very minute.

Bankers are asking themselves: How come there is no sign that the company is suffering from financial trouble? Simple, my dear Dimple, because it is not.

* * *

IT'S just that the company wants to preserve its financial strength from the coming onslaught of imports. It wants to use its cash flow to upgrade its factory.

Ramcar wants to retire a good part of its loans by paying banks in kind, such as with real estate. I heard the bankers were open to the idea.

Before you know it, the company will be in trouble if it does not act fast now. As I said, 2003 is just around the free-trade corner.

For its bread and butter, Ramcar is lucky enough to be making batteries. It's one of the products that our government takes immeasurable pleasure in giving zero tariff.

Actually, Ramcar had a choice. It could either fold up or fight it out. In fact, its board had a long-heated debate. The fighters won—unluckily for the government!

* * *

THAT was years ago, when everybody was still optimistic about the economy. Remember the real estate and stock market boom under Kuya Eddie?

That was when Ramcar started to upgrade its factory. It acquired a huge site in Bulacan. It bought the most modern equipment. It was ready to fight.

Behind all those moves was the thought of forthcoming competition. Most local manufacturers found it hard to compete against imports because of our high labor costs.

Believe me, our labor is no longer cheap. It has ceased to be cheap years ago. Today, our minimum wage is $150 a month, as against $60 in China or $30 in Indonesia.

Our power rates are also more than double those in places like Indonesia, thanks to our beloved state-owned monopoly, Napocor, which is diversifying into insurance.

* * *

AND so, Ramcar decided to mechanize its operations. It, therefore, borrowed a lot of money. Between you and me, the equipment for making battery could cost a fortune.

Luckily for the government, which wanted to castrate our manufacturers, the Asian crisis hit in 1997. Interest rates went up to the vicinity of the depleted ozone.

Ramcar's interest payments doubled in 1997. In 1998, from double, interest payments went up only two times. That was a four-fold increase all in all in two years.

Thus, the crisis forced Ramcar to slow down its plant upgrading. This, or it would have to borrow more to avoid missing payments on its loans.

But today, the company has no choice but to pursue the modernization, even if it must bring in assets from outside the manufacturing concern to pay off the banks.

I just don't know if it will please our heroes in the government who want to turn us into a country of traders.

Philratings slashes Benpres' rating on uncertain outlook

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE PHILIPPINE Ratings Services Corp., a unit of international ratings firm Standard & Poor's, has downgraded its rating of Benpres Holdings Corp.'s long-term commercial papers.

In a statement, Philratings said it changed the rating of Benpres' long-term commercial papers to "PRS Baa" from "PRS Aa."

The lower rating means Benpres' debt papers are "neither highly protected nor poorly secured."

"Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present, but certain protective elements may be lacking. The downward adjustment in the rating takes into account the deterioration in the company's financial profile," Philratings said.

"Weak profitability and internal cash generation, a substantial amount of maturing short-term debt and uncertainties in the timing and amount to be generated from the possible sale of investments given the present market conditions were seen as key rating factors," it added.

Philratings also noted that although the Benpres group benefited from its dominant position in broadcasting and improving economics of its power generation business, regulatory issues still continued to put a damper on its water concession and power distribution businesses.

Benpres issued P3 billion in long-term commercial papers in 1996. It currently has P2.67 billion in outstanding obligations. Out of this amount, some P670 million will mature on Oct. 1 while P2 billion will mature in September 2003.

Benpres also has $150 million in outstanding bonds due in December next year.

Benpres chief financial officer Angel Ong said the company had the cash to settle its Oct. 1 obligation.

SEC approves P88-M Fedchem IPO

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the application of Federal Chemicals Inc. to undertake an initial public offering for its capital build-up and debt repayment plans.

Fedchem, owned by businessmen Wilfredo Co and Charles Kwa, plans to list on the second board of the Philippine Stock Exchange 12.508 million shares at P6.50 to P7.50 each.

RCBC Capital Corp. will be the lead underwriter and issue manager for the offering.

Fedchem, which began operations in 1993, manufactures adhesives, sealants and other chemicals.

The company has an authorized capital stock of P100 million consisting of 100 million common shares with a par value of P1.

At present, 25 million common shares have been issued and are outstanding.

Fedchem said it expected to generate net proceeds ranging from P76.1 million to P88.2 million from the offering.

At least P60 million will be used as working capital, P11.5 million for partial repayment of trust receipts payable and P4.6 million will be invested in interest-bearing government securities, it said.

The sealant and adhesive maker said P11.5 million of trust receipt payable would be due after the completion of the offering.

The trust receipt payable arose from importation of key raw material directly from foreign suppliers.

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DISCLOSURES

SOUTH Western Cement Ventures Inc. has acquired an additional 26.72 percent of **Republic Cement Corp.'s** outstanding capital stock, bringing its ownership to 37.98 percent.

* * *

COSMOS Bottling Corp.'s next quarterly cash dividend of 5.29 centavos per preferred share shall be payable on Oct. 25 in favor of stockholders as of Oct. 11.

* * *

PRIME Gaming Philippines Inc. will buy from the open market 1.892 million of its own shares at a price not exceeding P17.50 each.

* * *

FILSYN Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 22, 1:30 p.m. at the 21st floor of the BA-Lepanto Building in Makati. Stockholders as of Nov. 2 shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

EASYCALL Communication Philippines Inc. has announced the resignation of directors Roberto Atendido, Lim Jit Teng, Ernest Fritz Server and Rene Soriano. Elected to replace them were J. Roberto Delgado, Arthur Tugade, Socorro Nito and Victoria Egan. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Manufacturing . . .

(From page B1)

ity accounted for 36.9 percent of the total respondent firms.

The average utilization rate for the total manufacturing sector was estimated at 79.7 percent, slightly higher than the 77.7 percent level in June.

Abacus Securities' Emilio Neri Jr. noted that the local leather sector was competitive against imports enabling this sector to benefit from import-substitution brought about by the peso depreciation.

Neri said the Philippines was still fortunate that the decline in the manufacturing output in July was moderate at 2.1 percent, noting that strong domestic demand was somehow able to offset the slower foreign demand for locally manufactured goods.

Also, he said that it was not surprising that manufacturers of basic goods continued to post robust growth especially since their products were resilient to negative developments in the local and foreign markets.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the weaker manufacturing output in July reflected a "truer demand situation here and abroad."

Vistan noted that after the Estrada regime was ousted in January, there was an increase in inventory build-up among manufacturers in anticipation of an improved economic and political situation. He said such a trend was now being reversed in the second half of the year as manufacturers were reverting to being cautious in their production.

"We hope that the contraction in volume won't worsen in the next few months, but with the slowdown in the economy of the United States and Japan, there is hardly any cause for optimism," Vistan said.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, September 28, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.50	50.5	49.5	50	451,200
China Banking Corp.	550.0	550	550	550	160
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24.50	24.5	24	24	43,500
Global Business Bank Inc.	77.50	77.5	77.5	77.5	5,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	197.0	198	192	193	96,220
Philippine National Bank	50.00	50	49.5	50	61,700
Phil. Savings Bank	28.50	29	28.5	29	10,200
Security Bank Corp.	18.00	18	18	18	100
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	11,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	.3500	.35	.35	.35	10,000
First Metro Invest Corp.	243.0	243	243	243	210
Sun Life Financial Serv.	920.0	920	920	920	1,600
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.50	22.75	22.5	22.75	3,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	.3400	.35	.33	.33	550,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	630.0	630	625	625	21,000
Manila Bulletin Pub Corp.	3.30	3.3	3.3	3.3	10,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel Co.	.1900	.19	.19	.19	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	492.5	492.5	480	480	98,790
PhilWeb.Com Inc.	.0230	.023	.021	.022	11,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	39,300
Manila Electric Co. "B"	33.50	34.5	33.5	34	529,800
Petron Corp.	1.36	1.4	1.32	1.36	4,937,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE					
Int'l Container Term'l Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.4	1,839,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	.4000	.42	.4	.42	240,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	20,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	.0700	.07	.07	.07	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip Inc.	.2400	.24	.24	.24	40,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.40	1.4	1.4	1.4	4,705,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.16	142,000
FOOD & BEVERAGES &TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.70	5.8	5.7	5.8	250,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.75	8,100
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24.50	25	24.5	25	11,000
RFM Corp.	2.20	2.22	2.16	2.16	1,817,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	38.50	39	38	39	51,900
San Miguel Corp. "B"	50.50	51	50.5	51	297,800
Universal Robina Corp.	4.20	4.2	4.2	4.2	844,000
Vitarich Corp.	.3800	.38	.38	.38	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.70	5.7	5.5	5.5	7,386,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.40	1.4	1.4	1.4	67,000
Ajo.net Holdings Inc.	.6500	.65	.6	.6	450,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	65,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	.4400	.44	.44	.44	100,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	.1500	.15	.15	.15	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	.1700	.17	.17	.17	210,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.08	.98	.98	134,390,000
Southeast Asian Cement	.1050	.105	.0925	.0925	900,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	.7300	.73	.73	.73	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	34.00	24	23	23.25	287,200
Forum Pacific Inc.	.2000	.2	.2	.2	30,000
Global Equities Inc.	.1100	.11	.1	.1	3,160,000
Ionics Inc.	7.80	7.8	7.4	7.4	214,000
J.G. Summit Hldgs Inc.	1.50	1.5	1.48	1.48	561,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.50	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Megaworld Corp.	.5900	.62	.59	.62	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.2500	.25	.24	.24	3,800,000
Music Corp.	.6600	.65	.65	.65q	360,000
Solid Group Inc.	.3600	.36	.36	.36	220,-000
Uniwide Hldgs Inc.	.1200	.12	.12	.12	700,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.40	6.4	6.4	6.4	1,000
Picop Resources Inc.	.0900	.09	.09	.09	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	.7400	.74	.73	.73	500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.75	12	10.25	12	71,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.4600	.47	.46	.47	930,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	.3700	.37	.37	.37	200,000
Manila Jockey Club	15.00	15	15	15	4,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.75	129,000
Globe Telecom "A" warrants	450.0	450	450	450	140
Globe Telecom Hldg. (PDR)	610.0	610	595	600	4,610
Omico Corp. warrant	.0014	.0014	.0014	.0014	30,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.00	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.00	10	10	10	3,000
Philweb.com Inc. warrants	0055	.006	.0055	.006	13,000,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	280.0	280	280	280	270
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.25	4.35	4.25	4.3	3,200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	.2800	.3	.28	.29	510,000
C & P Homes Inc.	.1500	.155	.15	.15	1,340,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.2400	.24	.24	.24	4,350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.2300	.23	.23	.23	3,000,000
Edsa Prop Holdings Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	746,000
City & Land Developers	1.40	1.4	1.4	1.4	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	.2000	.22	.2	.22	620,000
SM Development Corp.	.7500	.76	.75	.76	110,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.00	6	5.9	6	1,545,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc.	.23	.23	.23	.23	150,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	.0260	.027	.023	.027	26,600,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	.1650	.165	.165	.165	150,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	.0032	.0032	.0032	.0032	4,000,000
Omico Corp.	.0026	.0026	.0026	.0026	1,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	.0150	.015	.015	.015	13,800.00
Philex Mining Corp. B	.3200	.32	.32	.32	160,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	.1200	.12	.12	.12	30,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	.0034	.0034	.0032	.0032	16,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	.2400	.25	.24	.25	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	691,880	48,990,570.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	291,495,710	321,297,930.00
PRO	15,481,000	26,502,370.00
Mining	45,890,000	992,850.00
OIL	16,020,000	56,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	369,578,590	397,840,620.00

AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	454.21 DOWN 5.67
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,590.96 DOWN 21.18
PRO	458.25 DOWN 3.15
Mining	1,172.39 UP 14.82
OIL	1.41 UNCH 0.01
All Shares Index	656.31 UP 6.71
Composite	1,126.63 DOWN 14.96

NO. OF ADVANCES: 23; NO. OF DECLINES: 45; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 27; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 95; NO. OF TRADES: 1,828

CURRENCIES

Sept 28, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.089562	1.000000	51.3550
Japan	Yen	0.009109	0.008360	0.4293
United Kingdom	Pound	1.606014	1.474000	75.6973
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139706	0.128222	6.5848
Switzerland	Franc	0.675656	0.620117	31.8461
Canada	Dollar	0.690033	0.633312	32.5237
Singapore	Dollar	0.617665	0.566893	29.1128
Australia	Dollar	0.530613	0.486997	25.0097
Bahrain	Dinar	2.890239	2.652661	136.2274
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.290503	0.266624	13.6925
Brunei	Dollar	0.615920	0.565291	29.0305
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000104	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.024506	0.022492	1.1551
UAE	Dirham	0.296722	0.272331	13.9856
Korea	Won	0.000840	0.000771	0.0396
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.917800	47.1336
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.469264	24.0991
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139918	7.1855
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.416479	21.3883
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066699	3.4253
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022752	1.1684
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000474	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.154363	7.9273
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004578	0.2351
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005516	0.2833
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022752	1.1684
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.165366	59.8474

SEARCH FOR INVESTOR

Hottick told to rejoin NSC committee

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

MALAYSIA'S debt rehabilitation agency Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd. has ordered Hottick Investment Ltd.-Renong Bhd. to rejoin the evaluation committee that will choose an interim investor for National Steel Corp.

Danaharta officials met separately with NSC president Ibrahim Bidn and Hottick-Renong's Dato Rashid Manaf, and they resolved to name a representative of Hottick on the NSC evaluation committee. Hottick-Renong likewise assured that it would first consult Danaharta as well as advise the evaluation committee of its decision on any matters regarding its 80-percent stake in NSC.

Danaharta sought Bidn and Manaf following Hottick-Renong's abrupt decision to quit the NSC evaluation committee composed of the Department of Trade and Industry and the company's creditor-banks led by Philippine National Bank. Hottick-Renong opted to pursue its original deal with Allengoal, a move that forced the evaluation committee to postpone last week's scheduled acceptance of offers to run NSC on an interim basis.

To prevent further delays in the evaluation committee's work, Danaharta has also encouraged Hottick's lenders to appoint a representative who would act as an observer.

Danaharta had taken over the 3 billion ringgit worth of loan of Hottick from Malayan Banking, RHB Bank, Bank Bumiputra and Commerce Assetholding Bhd. Hottick is the investment vehicle used by Renong to bail out the original Malaysian owners of NSC, the Westmont group.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said these developments further strengthened the agency's resolve to work in the committee with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the creditor banks in seeking a litigation-free solution to the NSC situation that would lead to the reopening and viable operations of the Iligan plant. Roxas will reconvene the committee next week and set a new deadline for the acceptance of prospective investors of NSC.

The committee was formed early this year to break the deadlock between NSC's owners and creditors which has kept NSC's plants idle since November 1999. The committee aims to reach a settlement between the owners and the creditors by choosing a mutually acceptable investor that would run the plant on an interim basis while they search for a long-term investor and the SEC resolves their corporate dispute.

No agreement yet on changes in MRT 3 terms

METRO Rail Transit Corp. (MRTC), owner of the MRT 3 system running along Edsa, clarified that it has not yet reached an agreement with the government on the parameters of the proposed conversion of the 25-year build-lease-transfer deal into a build-transfer arrangement.

MRTC, in a statement, said it wanted to preserve the 15-percent internal rate of return guaranteed by the government under the BLT agreement. This rate of return, it said, represented "the arms-length rate" the government had agreed to pay the company in exchange for the completion of the MRT 3 project and MRTC's assumption of various risks associated with it.

MRTC chair Robert John Sobrepeña said that members of the consortium have assumed substantial construction risks in one of the most difficult sites in Manila.

MRTC said the consortium infused more than US$200 million in funds into the project without the benefit of a firm financing agreement. The failure of MRTC or the government to come up with the financing would have resulted into a massive infusion of new equity into the project. Notwithstanding these risks, MRTC said it was able to complete the MRT 3 project and delivered the train system to the government on time, on budget and in excellent operating condition.

Members of the MRTC consortium such as Fil-Estate Management Inc., Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp., Greenfield Development Corp., Ramcar Inc., Ayala Land Inc. Allante Realty and Development Inc., and DBH Inc. have all agreed to cooperate with the government on the proposed conversion "subject to a commercially acceptable consideration."

The group believes that the 9.5-percent rate of return being proposed only if the consortium is merely a lender to the project.

"Given that MRTC has assumed equity risks, the reasonable equity-based rate of return should be followed," it said.

It also said that under the BLT agreement, all taxes relating to the transfer of assets and the operations of the system are on the account of the government.

Japan loan to jumpstart toll road project

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority recently signed a P17.84-billion (41.93 billion yen) loan agreement with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to finance the Subic-Clark-Tarlac toll road project during the visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to Japan.

The agreement was signed by BCDA Chair Rogelio Singson and Kyosuke Shinozawa, governor and chair of JBIC.

Singson said the construction of an 89-kilometer, four-lane expressway would usher in a new era of economic growth not only for the Subic and Clark Special Economic Zone but also for the rest of Central Luzon.

The road project is funded under the 10th Yen Loan package, also known as the Obuchi Fund. The Philippines is one of the largest recipients of Japan's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) program with $412.98 million released to various projects in 1999 alone.

The provinces that will directly benefit from the toll road project are Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales and Bataan; the cities of Angeles, Tarlac and Olongapo; and the towns of Porac and Floridablanca in Pampanga, Bamban and Capas in Tarlac, and Hermosa and Dinalupihan in Bataan.

"Once completed, the Subic International Seaport and Clark International Airport will become very attractive for international operations, making the Philippines globally competitive," Singson added.

The road project is a priority program of Ms Macapagal to develop the countryside and decongest Metro Manila by dispersing major industries to the provinces. Locators in the industrial parks in Tarlac strongly support the project as it will attract more investors into their areas and spur the economic development of the province. Nueva Ecija and Bulacan can also expect greater employment and business opportunities.

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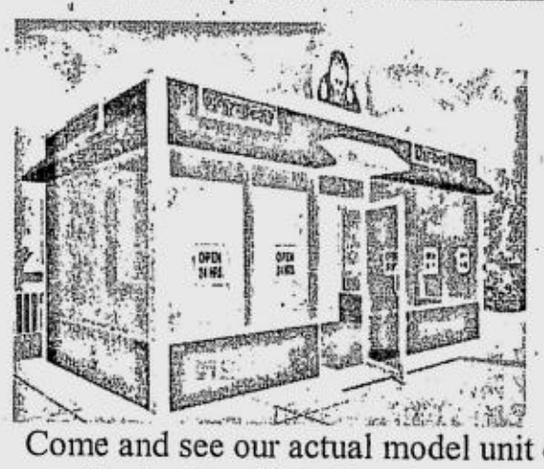

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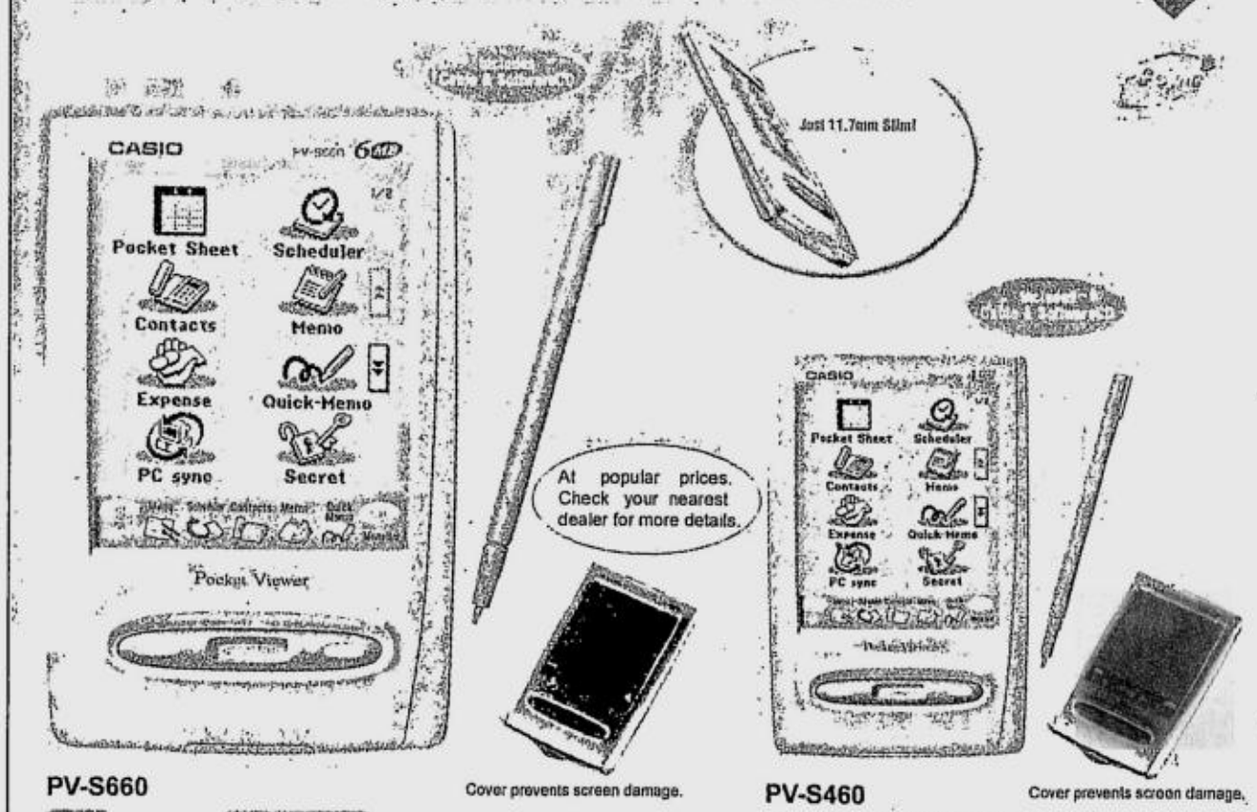

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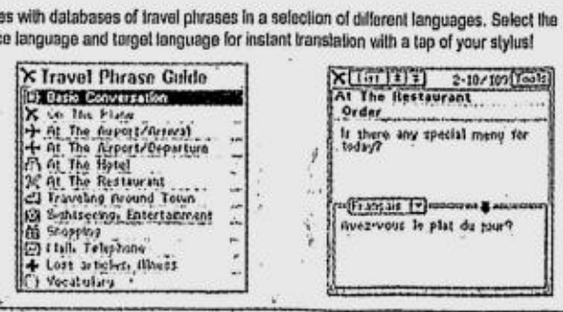

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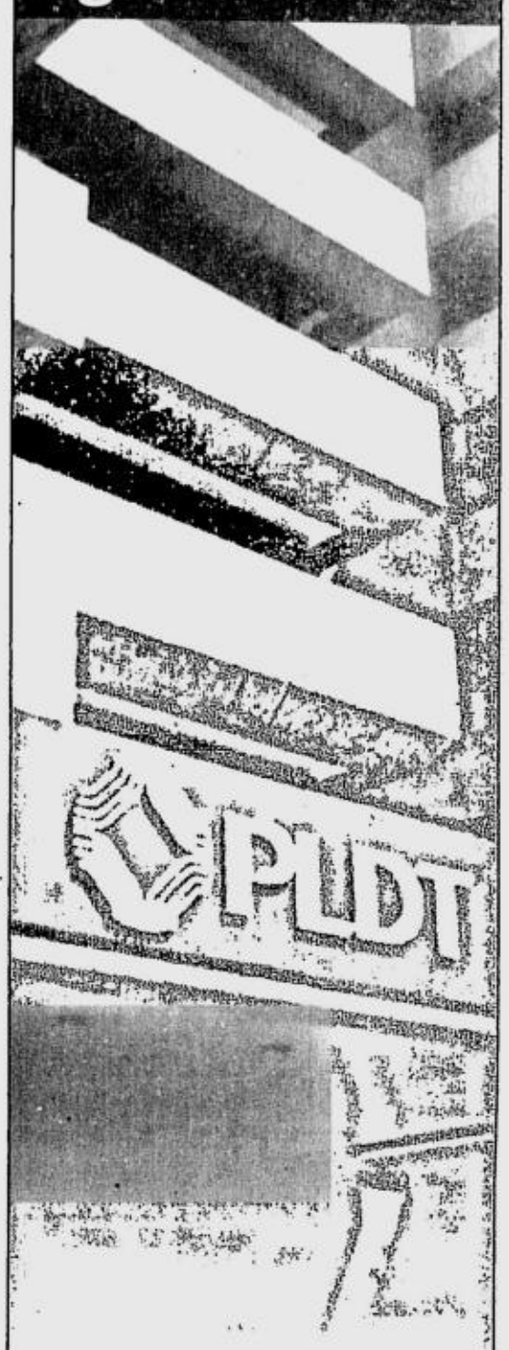

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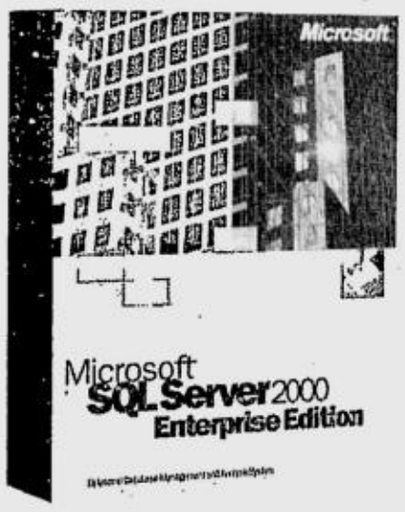

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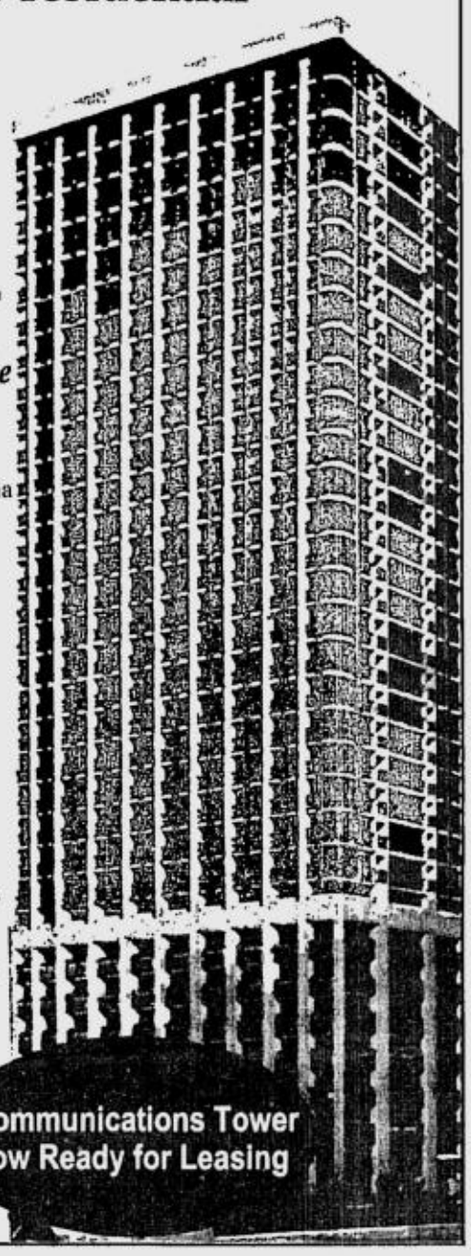

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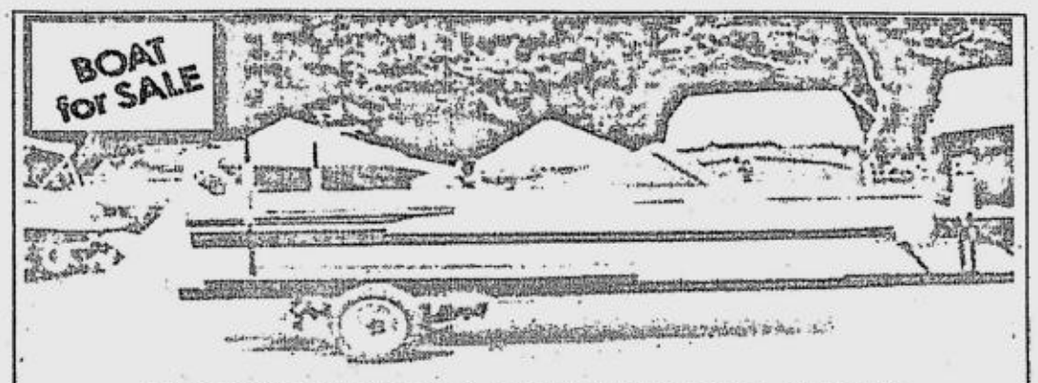
810-8019 829-5081
810-7183 872-7603
815-2144 871-8318
810-7297
Welcome Brokers & Agents write to forterealty@skyinet.net

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

BOATS



16' RUNABOUT / RECON 140 EVINRUDE / RE-SPRAYED
NEW TRAILER / DEEP V-HULL / BASED AT MAYA-MAYA, BATANGAS
US$ 7250. Call SOL GATCHALIAN 804-0620 / BRIAN (0917) 255-8135 MONDAY.

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CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Condo "EZ" Term P1.3M 9132224 9124428 4381480
One Burgendy Plaza 2BR 2.8M 5312021 0917-3955738

ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
Near Ateneo NCBA St. Lukes
50T Reserve RFO 3y 0%
Jacuzzi Sauna Pool
Dresser Cab Rhood
MOVERS DEV'T & MKTG
4210734, 4211350
(0919) 4076857
Agent Orientation Sat 9-11 AM

QUEZON CITY

RUSH! TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

SAN JUAN

Platinum 1 FA-176 634-1212

PROVINCIAL

BAGUIO Apt. nr. SLU ncome 180T/M Cell (0918)9096103

MEMORIAL LOT

Magnificat F. Boni 634-1212

FARM/FISHPEN

Baras Farm 1.5H 635-0462

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

KALOOCAN

143F. Asuncion St Morning Breeze Cal 412-7046
2B/R U-D 3620065 Briones 7Ave

MANDALUYONG

Nr. Chall 2BR 10T, STD 7T Boni STD 6.5-7T 373-0587

PARANAQUE

2BR Aprt. w/grge 2BR 2TB •Res 7763883 Off 5239331•

QUEZON CITY

2BR 2TB Res & Office nr Edsa & SM Cubao 9287262

HOUSE

LAS PINAS

3BR Bung Tel/Grg 8.5T/mo Strong H²O Call Greg 365-5370 • 920-0169 PM
S'dierll big new 9226570

PROVINCIAL

Albur Bohol Facing Sea Pref. Foreigner Call 821-3820
San Pedro Lag. 916-0712

OTHER AREAS

Meycauayan 3BR w/Grge Call 749-4105 Strong H²O

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

Sta Ana Condo 4 Rent Nr Mkti, La Salle 2BR-11T 1BR-8T 563-7395 • 562-7054 Maritess

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

ORTIGAS 2BR 18T 126m² MdsRm Pool 2588019
Twnhse 4BR 2TB w/Grd Kapitolyo Pasig P25T Look 634-3382 Max Sun. 632-9761 Tess Sat.
VVere 3BR FFur P40-50T Gilmore 3BR P45T 723-2391

QUEZON CITY

1BR2TB w/Pool 4224220
SALE/RENT 2-3BR TERMS AFFORDABLE. T414-0573

SAN JUAN

T'hse Unit w/ 2BR, Mds rm, 3TB Fronting b'tiful garden & S.pool Sunnyvale Condo. Greenhills. Call 411-9033, 448-7737 or 0917-5239305

PROVINCIAL

PAzul Golf w/ Condo 8156172

FOR LEASE

2sty. bldg. Taguig 5455380
60m² Pasay Taft nr: Buendia LRT 8310169/0917-4500042
EVACOM, PQUE 600SQM FAIRVIEW LOT, REGALADO ST., 400SQM 2429012-13
OFFICE SPACE Makati 50-750m² 8185362/8448318

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HOME APPLIANCES ETC.
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LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169
FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigle/Ali 8903461 loc. 25/23

BUSINESS RENTAL

21 Timog 400m² P200T neg. 50m² P15T Office 373-0587
3-STY SHAW-KPTOLYO VERY NICE LOC ONLY P80TH BIG PARKING 6716870/5326334
Nr BUENDIA along PTAMO 38/85/62/185m² 1st Class Bldg. 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs.
OFC/COMML SOLO MRT EDSA V-NICE GR CHEAP 6716870
OFFICE SPACE 4210619
Pque 4Lease Off Spaces & Whse 4Info Call 687-1806
STORE SPACE FOR RENT 10-14 SQM 7355741/43
STORE WID ROLL UP DOOR 524 EDSA CALOOCAN 3610652
Tutuban Divisoria 132 sqm 3 Storey Tel 2429012-13

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

97 Civic LXI 345T 6313649

KIA

PREGIO '98 M/T 330T 1st Owner 4330223 • 9257622

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Capacity - 2 tons @ 30 m.
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MERCEDES

MB100 1998 365T 1stOwner Call 925-7622 • 433-0568

MITSUBISHI

96 Mit Galant SS A-1 280T 9325828 ; 09198113733
97Lcr GSR 305T 56km 722-1376
Lancer GLX'01 P500T 5434469

NISSAN

'91 Sentra A1 150T 645-7693

VOLKSWAGON

VOLKS WAGEN 926-4526

VOLVO

89Volvo 740GLE good cond 09178989645;09174088130
89Volvo 740GLE gud cond 09178989645/09174088130

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Canter, Fuso, Jap.recon 4w 10ft. alum van w/aircon 1yr used 415-9346

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Buses & Hino/Fuso genuine spare parts by lots/retail
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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295
BNEW PREGIO L300 8254058
CAR VANS 413-5383
Van Coaster Bus 913-91-23
FXcheaprates3730584Cathy
HONDA MB100 8908668
L300 T 4161105 / 7411356
L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)
Cheap Vans 493-1802 749-1182
StarexMB100HiAce9483535
P800/L3 9136710/4333682
Pajero/Safari 09176673765

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ABC 5368822/3039789
Udrive CARS VANS 8006595
VANS COASTERS 951-4379

CAR SERVICE

AUV no dep. no down with driver 4565544 ED

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

BOATS

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215
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CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24
2% w/o Taking Car 8966633
2% w/o taking car 7262780
2% w/oTaking Car 3646928
2% w/oTaking Car 3732083
2% w/oTaking Car 7221021
Car Sangla•Spot Cash!
LOWEST % 740-5692/6192

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

Farmtrctors Sale 3672002
Kubota•Iseki• 3610215

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

SPORTING GOODS

B.Table B'new w/accessories •8014494/8020566•
Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125
New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

WANTED TO BUY

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BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH
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Partly used Educ 6469097
Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886
WE BUY GOLD HIGHEST PRICE CALL:8390002 8390004

MISCELLANEOUS

ID strap LogoPin 656-8605

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that the following provisional receipts of All AsiaPlans Corp. were declared lost:

Booklet no.	Series number	Booklet no.	Series number
4-622	33106-10	5-1226	41126-30
4-623	33111-15	5-1230	41146-50
5-1226	41126-30	5-1224	41116-20
4-625	33121-25	5-1235	41171-75
5-1225	41121-25	5-1236	41176-80
4-627	33131-25	5-1428	42136-40
4-628	33136-40	5-1430	42146-50
5-357	36781-85	5-1431	42151-55
5-358	36786-90	5-1432	42156-60
5-359	36791-95	5-1435	42171-75
5-360	36796-800	5-1436	42176-80
5-361	36801-05	5-1437	42181-85
5-362	36806-10	5-1439	42191-95
5-363	36811-15	5-1440	42196-200
5-364	36816-20	6-2559	55291-95
5-365	36821-25	6-2560	55296-300
5-366	36826-30	6-2561	55301-05
5-367	36831-35	6-2562	55306-10
5-368	36836-40	6-2563	55311-15
5-369	36831-45	6-2564	55316-20
5-370	36846-50	6-2565	55321-25
5-371	36851-55	6-2566	55326-30
5-372	36856-60	6-2800	56496-500
5-373	36861-65	6-2802	56506-10
5-374	36866-70	6-2803	56511-15
5-375	36871-75	6-2804	56516-20
5-376	36876-80	6-2808	56536-40
5-720	38596-600	6-2814	56566-70
5-721	38601-05	6-2815	56571-75
5-722	38606-10	6-3236	58676-80
5-723	38611-15	6-3237	58681-85
5-724	38616-20	6-3238	58686-90
5-725	38621-25	6-3243	58711-15
5-727	38631-35	6-3548	60236-40
5-728	38636-40	6-3549	60241-45
5-729	38641-45	6-3551	60251-55
5-730	38646-50	6-3555	60271-75
5-732	38656-60	6-3638	60686-90
5-1448	42226-30	6-3645	60721-25
6-440	45696-700	6-3857	61781-85
6-444	45716-20	6-3858	61786-90
6-445	45721-25	6-3861	61801-05
6-446	45726-30	6-3863	61811-15
6-447	45731-35	6-3864	61816-20
6-448	45736-40	6-3872	61856-60
6-449	45741-45	6-3873	61861-65
6-1243	48711-15	6-3874	61866-70
6-1244	48716-20	6-3875	61871-75
6-1246	48726-30	6-3876	61876-80
6-1248	48736-40	6-4569	65341-45
6-1252	48756-60	6-4570	65346-50
6-1254	48766-70	6-4573	65361-65
6-1260	48796-800	6-4574	65366-70
6-1905	52021-25	6-4577	65381-85
6-1906	52026-30	6-4578	85386-90
6-1907	52031-35	5-1444	42216-20
6-1909	52041-45	6-1909	52041-45
6-1910	52046-50	6-1910	52046-50
6-1912	52056-60	6-1912	52056-60
5-1203	41011-15	6-1913	52061-65
5-1204	41016-20	6-2240	53696-700
5-1208	41036-40	6-2241	53701-05
5-1209	41041-45	6-2243	53711-15
5-1217	41081-85	6-2244	53716-20
5-1220	41096-100	5-1201	41001-05
5-1221	41101-05	5-1203	41011-15
5-1222	41106-10	5-1232	41156-60
5-1223	41111-15		

Any transactions covered by the above numbered receipts will not be honored by the company.

ALL ASIAPLANS CORPORATION

All AsiaCapital Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Tel. No. 8183211/8130188 Telefax 8482068

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MALE/FEMALE

ASST. GOLF COURSE SUPT. Graduate in Agricultural course; A minimum two years experience as Foreman or in higher level. Apply immediately with ResumØ and recent 2 x 2 photo at the H R Dept. of **"The Country Club Inc."** in Terelay, Canlubang, Laguna or call **(049)549-1598 look for Marie**

BNA-HS Name 10 Vacant Positions for Teacher I Qualification for PBET/LET Eligibility Item no. OSEC-DCSB TECHR I 30706, 30707, 30708, 30709, 30710, 30711, 30712, 30713, 30714, 30715

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Needs TRAINOR
Bus.-realted course. Pref. 2 yrs exp. in real-estate & direct selling. Will lecture. Assign Cabanatuan City. Call/come on Oct 1, 01 for interview Valero Plaza G-12 • 815-4427

•Admin Staff 9134470 Ayna•

OFC STAFF 9134470 Carl

PUBLIC NOTICES

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RTW P28 up/caps 727-4934

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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED DAVAO COOPERATIVE BANK, INC.

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Davao Cooperative Bank, Inc. (DCBI) on October 2, 2001.

Depositors are advised to proceed to designated payoff sites on dates indicated in the schedule (please refer to table below), to file their claims for insured deposits. Claim forms will be issued free of charge. PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Also, PDIC has designated Land Bank of Philippines (LBP) as its paying agent for the four (4) offices/branches of DCBI namely, Butuan, Mandaue, Cagayan de Oro and General Santos. Numbers of approved claims that have been turned over by PDIC representatives to LBP for the said branches shall be posted at the payoff sites. Depositors are therefore requested to refer to these numbers before proceeding to LBP servicing branch for payment of claims.

Servicing Dates	*Payoff Site*	*DCBI Office/ Branch*	*LBP Servicing Branch*
October 2 to October 29, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Head Office DCB Building, Rizal St. Tagum City Davao del Norte	Tagum (H.O.) and Moneyshop	-
October 2 to October 19, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Trento DCB Bldg., Poblacion Trento Agusan del Sur	Trento	-
October 2 to October 9, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Butuan Corram Bldg., P. Burgos St. Butuan City Agusan del Norte	Butuan	LBP-Butuan
	Davao Cooperative Bank-Mandaue Door # 6, O & M Bldg./Center A. del Rosario Ave., Mandaue City	Mandaue	LBP-Mandaue
October 9 to October 19, 2001	South Cotabato Cooperative Bank, Inc. Koronadal City South Cotabato	Tacurong	-
	Davao Cooperative Bank-Cagayan de Oro Camp Vicente Roa St. Cagayan de Oro	Cagayan de Oro	LBP-Cagayan De Oro (Velez)
October 9 to October 30, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Babak DCB Bldg. 4, Miranda, Babak Island Garden City of Samal	Babak	-
October 9 to Nov. 5, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Sto. Tomas DCB Bldg. 2, Bouganvilla St. Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte	Sto. Tomas	-
October 22 to November 9, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Monkayo DCB Bldg. 3, Salazar St., Poblacion Monkayo, Davao del Norte	Monkayo	-
October 22 to November 16, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Gen. Santos Cabaloan Bldg., Magsaysay Ave. General Santos City	General Santos	LBP General Santos (Pioneer)
	Davao Cooperative Bank-Kapalong DCB Bldg. 6, Magsaysay St., Kapalong, Davao del Norte	Kapalong	-

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally or thru mail at the PDIC located at 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:

a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit, and/or latest bank statement and unused check/s; and
b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Davao Cooperative Bank, Inc. is on **January 7, 2003**. After **January 7, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – Sept. 29 & Oct. 1, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY,
METRO MANILA

IN RE: Petition for the Issuance of Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate Scheduled Domestic Air Transportation Services
LAOAG INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES, INC. — CAB CASE NO. 20799
Petitioner,
x ---------- x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that LAOAG INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES, INC. has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board an application for the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate Scheduled Domestic Air Transportation Services. The initial hearing on the above entitled case will be held on **October 11, 2001** at **2:00 p.m.** in the CAB Conference Room of the Civil Aeronautics Board, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing the applicant shall present evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation and that copies of this notice and the application itself be served upon Philippine Airlines, Inc., Cebu Pacific Air, Air Philippines Corporation, Asian Spirit and Grand Air, either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at least five (5) days before the scheduled hearing.

10 September 2001,
Pasay City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) **CARMELO L. ARCILLA**
Special Hearing Officer

(PDI – Sept. 22 & 29, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines • Telephone 925-2401

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for:

I - One (1) year contract (January - December 2002) for the following:

a) Building Maintenance
b) Pest Control Services
c) Laundry Services
d) Supply of X-ray Films
e) Janitorial Services
f) Security Services
g) Supply of Med. Liquid Oxygen and Gases

II - Six (6) months (January - June 2002) contract for Pharma, Med./ Lab. and Foodstuffs Supplies.

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. SEC Registration
3. Business License
4. License to Operate (BFAD)
5. Financial Statement (last 2 years)
6. ITR (last 2 years)
7. DOH Accreditation
8. Location Map of Office
9. List of Clients

Additional requirements, please call purchasing division at 922-0574 c/o Noemi.

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before **October 15, 2001** at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Sept. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 & 30, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **ARTURO P. ALCARAZ** has been extrajudicially settled per Doc #440, Page #87, Book #1, Series of 2001 of Notary Public Alberto R. Bomediano, Jr. of Makati City
(PDI - Sept. 22, 29 & Oct. 6, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estates of the late JOSE CRUZ MEDINA who died in March 6, 1973 and ADELAIDA CUENCA MEDINA who died on January 3, 1990 which estates consist of various parcels of land have been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement on September 12, 2001, by and among their heirs as evidenced in the document executed and acknowledged before Notary Public Gina C. Garcia of Makati City, and entered in her Notarial Registry as Doc.#322, Page #63, Book III, Series of 2001.
(PDI - Sept. 15, 22 & 29, 2001)

THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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CUBAO
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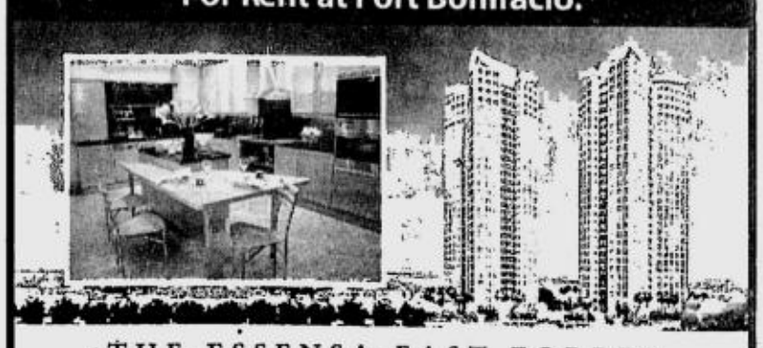
912-9010; 912-9011

MAKATI
892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

Luxurious Three Bedroom Residences For Rent at Fort Bonifacio.



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Republic of the Philippines
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO
Province of Maguindanao
MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN KUDARAT
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY TO BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the ADB for the Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP) and the Municipality of Sultan Kudarat, Province of Maguindanao, is one of the 140 ARCs identified by DAR-ADB-ARCDP.

The Municipal Government of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, a local partner of the DAR-ADB-ARCDP, invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Proposed Improvement/Concreting of Alamada-Panatan Road, located at Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao in accordance with the hereunder work packages.

Description of Project: **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT/CONCRETING OF ALAMADA-PANATAN ROAD**

Major Items of Work Quantity/Unit	Quantity
1. Clearing and Grubbing	12,540.00 sq.m.
2. Roadway Excavation	7,661.00 cu.m.
3. Pipe Culvert and Drain Excavation	125.00 cu.m.
4. Embankment	221.00 cu.m.
5. Sub-grade Preparation	17,400.00 cu.m.
6. Aggregate Sub-base Coarse	1,740.00 cu.m.
7. Aggregate Base Coarse	1,740.00 cu.m.
8. PCCP	1,741.00 cu.m.
9. Pipe Culvert	40.00 pieces

Bidding Date: **OCTOBER 24, 2001 at Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao Municipal Hall**
No. of Calendar Days to complete: **126 working days**
Total length of project: **2,900 meters**

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders at above office starting **September 26, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) per package. Pre-bid conference will be held on **October 22, 2001** at Sultan Kudarat Municipal Hall.

All bids must be accompanied by a corresponding security bid bond in a form of Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, and Bank Draft of an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency and must be delivered to the Municipal Government of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao on or before bidding date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bidding dates in the presence of participating bidder or representative who chose to attend.

The PBAC-SK, Maguindanao, ARMM reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bidder.

(Sgd.) **DATU TUCAO O. MASTURA, CPA**
Municipal Mayor

(PDI – Sept. 29 & 30, 2001)

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO BID

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES, a division of the Philippine Tourism Authority is inviting interested buyers to bid for the sale of the following unserviceable properties situated at FTI Warehouse, **FTI Compound, CRB Road, Taguig, Metro Manila on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS BASIS."**

One (1) lot Computer and Peripherals
One (1) lot Office/Store Furnitures, Fixtures and Equipment

All interested parties may secure Pre-qualification form for a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** from **October 1** to **4, 2001** from the **Purchasing Department,** Duty Free Philippines, Fiesta Mall, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Parañaque City.

Submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification forms will be until October 10, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. A pre-bidding conference and site inspection for all qualified contractors will be announced later.

Bidders will be required to post a bid bond equivalent to **ten percent (10%)** of the total contract price in the form of **Cash, Manager's Check** or **Cashier's Check.**

Duty Free Philippines reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refused to accept his award. Further, DFP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JOEL R. PEREZ**
CHAIRMAN
Disposal Committee

(PDI – Sept. 29, 30 & Oct. 1, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR PRE-FABRICATED MATERIALS, BUILDING SYSTEMS, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALIZED AND LOW-COST HOUSING UNITS

The National Housing Authority is in search of pre-fabricated housing materials, building systems, and technology for the construction of socialized and low-cost housing units.

Interested parties shall submit their Letters of Intent to the Project Evaluation Committee (PEC), c/o the Office of the Assistant General Manager, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building not later than **October 10, 2001.**

Copies of the Terms of Reference may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat on **October 10-17, 2001** upon payment of non-refundable fee of P200.00. Pre-bid Conference is scheduled on **October 23, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the Operation Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building.

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive formalities or any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Chairman
Project Evaluation Committee

(PDI – Sept. 29, Oct. 5 & 9, 2001)

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So dearly missed,
So lovingly remembered

on the FOURTH Death Anniversary of

RUFINA CASANOVA HALILI

who joined her Creator on September 29, 1997

*We find strength and we are humbly grateful to God in knowing that **MOMMY** touched so many lives in her concern for others. She will continue living on in our hearts and through the lives we lead as testament to her legacy of Love.*

We invite relatives and friends to remember her in prayers.

Masses shall be offered and celebrated at the following churches on September 29, 2001:

Transfiguration Parish, Murphy *Quezon City*	*5:30 PM*
Christ the King Parish *Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City*	*7:00 AM*
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace	*6:30 AM*
Our Lady of EDSA *EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City*	
Sto. Rosario Church *Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City*	*6:00 AM*
Poor Clare Church *Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City*	*6:00 AM*
Sta. Maria Della Strada *Katipunan Road, Quezon City*	*6:00 AM*
Queen of Angels	*7:00 AM*
Dominican Monastery *Los Angeles, California, USA*	
St. Bernard Church *Los Angeles, California, USA*	*7:30 AM*
St. Dominic's Church *Los Angeles, California, USA*	*8:00 AM*
St. Cecilia Church *Tustin, California, USA*	*8:00 AM*
St. Andrew Newman *Riverside, California, USA*	*8:00 AM*
St. Vincent de Paul *Montebello, California, USA*	*7:30 AM*
Holy Sepulcher *Jerusalem, Israel*	*9:00 AM*

Tridumm Masses (from Sept. 27 — Sept. 29)

Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Los Angeles, CA	7:30 a.m.
Iglesia de Asuncion, Los Angeles, CA	7:30 a.m.
Queen of Angels Monastery, Bocaue, Bulacan	7:00 a.m.
St. Francis Church, Meycauayan, Bulacan	6:00 a.m.

Nothing that is loved is lost, and no one who has ever touched a heart... can really pass away.

WE LOVE YOU MOMMY!

Nene, Dolly, Kit, Jena and Family

CONSUELO M. GARCIA

of San Miguel, Bulacan

Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 27, 2001 at the age of 88.

Her brothers **Graciano, Nicanor, Francisco** (†), and **Delfin** (†); sisters **Rosario** (†), **Felicidad, Placida** and **Crispina** (†); brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces, relatives and friends mourn her passing and request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at San Jose, San Miguel, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 30, 2001 at the Sta. Rita Memorial Park, San Miguel, Bulacan after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

PASTORA P. ACOBA

Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 27, 2001 at the age of 94.

His loving children **RESORA, EDWIN & MARIE LOU**; grandchildren **GRACE, JOY, JOAN, MITET, RAYMOND,** and **ILAY**; sisters-in-law **VENANCIA VEA** and **MARINA V. SAGISI**; nephews, nieces and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Guimba Methodist Church, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Sunday at 1:30 PM at the Guimba Municipal Cemetery, after the service.

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"I am not praying for the world, but for those You have given me, for they are Yours."
John 17:9

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

MESSAGE OF THANKS

The Family of the late

Engr. ARTEMIO ROSETE NANO

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 19, 2001

wish to express their heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, attended the wake and funeral rites and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted them in their hour of bereavement.

ESPERANZA ZUÑIGA CORDERO

Peacefully joined the Creator on 27 September 2001 at the age of 89.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 30, 2001 at Meycauayan Memorial Park after the Requiem Mass at 2:00 p.m.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
SLRC-2001-10B

The Southern Luzon Regional Center (SLRC), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
	DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 15, 2001; 2:00 PM	
A1 1 LOT	APPLICATION SERVER & ACCESSORIES	3IMD01-0001
A2 4 SETS	DIAGPHRAGM SEAL	3BAC01-0609
A3 525000KG	SODIUM HYDROXIDE (CAUSTIC SODA)	3MAK01-408
A4 1 LOT	J.O. SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF HYDRAULIC SYSTEM OF BRIMONT TELELEC	3QUE01-190
	DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 16, 2001; 2:00 PM	
B1 1 LOT	REPAIR/REHAB OF PAGING SYSTEM	3TIW01-027
B2 6 SETS	DISCONNECTING SWITCH	3LAG01-153
B3 1 LOT	CONTACTOR, RESISTOR, CAPACITOR, RELAY	3NCS01-049
B4 1 LOT	THERMOMETER, RELAY, ETC.	3NCS01-052
B5 40 PAILS	PAINT, ANTI-CORROSIVE, ETC.	3QUE01-260

Note: For Schedule B1 - Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **October 9, 2001,** 10:00 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting **October 02, 2001.** No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bid documents for Schedules A1, A3 and B1 may be obtained from MMS GENCO 6.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **October 10, 2001** before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock p.m. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) **R. D. RAMAS**
Manager, Administration

(PDI - Sept. 29, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II - B
MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

September 27, 2001

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, in correlation with CAO 5-90 dated **July 17, 1990**, as implemented by CMO 59-90 dated **September 3, 1990**, there will be a **PUBLIC AUCTION SALE** (Sealed Bidding), on **October 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001** from 1:30 p.m. until terminated at the 2nd Floor, Customs Hearing Room, MICP, North Harbor, Manila, the herein described articles:

"USED AUTO AND TRUCK REPLACEMENT PARTS, SONY TAPE DISPLAY STAND, PEEBLES, TIRES, ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES, RTW'S, ANIMAL FEEDS, ELECTRONICS, FROZEN PORK AND CHICKEN, USED PERSONAL EFFECTS AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS, USED APPLIANCES, DARTBOARDS, SULFURIC ACID, HESCO DEX SUPER 400 & PLASTIC SCREEN, DART BOARD, COCOA, GRANITE AND MARBLE BLOCKS (SINDOPHIL), TILES, WASTE PAPER, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE DRINK AND MANY INTERESTING ITEMS."

For particulars, please see or contact **Mr. Isidro A. Pre**, Chief, Auction and Cargo Disposal Division, MICP, Tel. No. **245-4101** local **2283**.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EMELITO V. VILLALUZ**
District Collector of Customs

(PDI - Sept. 29, 2001)

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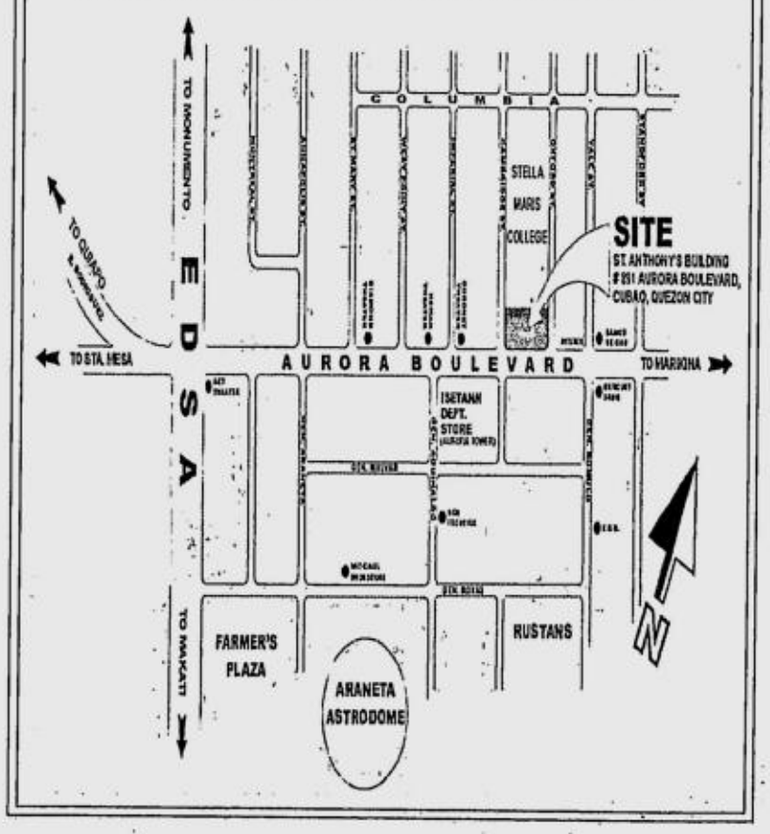


Bond issue to raise 50B yen

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho announced yesterday that the government would raise up to 50 billion yen ($400 million) from a "shibosai," or a private placement, of bonds.

"The proceeds of this transaction will be used to finance the national government's funding requirement for next year," Camacho said in a statement.

He said the government mandated Fuji Bank and Nomura Securities as joint lead managers and Daiwa Securities SMBC as co-lead managers for the government's issue. Nippon Export and Investment Insurance will guarantee the bonds, the statement said.

The statement did not give the timing for the issue.

Camacho said earlier this month that the government was considering a public offer of "samurai" bonds, or a private placement of a bond offer of 10 years or longer worth $300 million to $500 million possibly before the end of the year.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza told reporters the Japan Bank for International Cooperation offered to guarantee the sovereign borrowing.

If JBIC's guarantee will make it in time and will be acceptable to the Philippines, the size of the borrowing can go up to as high as $1 billion, Edeza said.

A person familiar with the matter said a guarantee from Nippon would give the government borrowing an investment grade rating that would bring down spreads to a range even lower than the current rate of 2.8 to 3 percentage points over the Yen Interbank Offered Loan.

Farmers seek zero tariff on fertilizers

A GROUP of farmers in Nueva Ecija has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to scrap the 3-percent tariff on imported fertilizers in line with her administration's food security program.

In an open letter, the Nueva Ecija chapter of the Samahan ng Magsasakang Pilipino asked Ms Macapagal to bring down to zero the 3-percent tariff on imported ammonium sulfate and urea.

"These fertilizers are critical products for the farm sector because they determine food prices that ultimately affect consumers," the group said in its letter to the President.

"Removing the 3-percent tariff will greatly encourage the use of fertilizers in the Philippines and increase the country's harvests," it said.

The group said the Philippines had been lagging behind Thailand and Vietnam, two of the region's top rice-producing countries, in the use of fertilizers to augment farm yields. This, it said, was one reason why the Philippines had to import some of its rice requirements.

"Our use of fertilizers has been below the level prescribed by experts. Removing the 3-percent tariff on fertilizers will not only encourage farmers to use more fertilizers but also help them cut their costs," SMP-Nueva Ecija said.

"Removing the 3-percent tariff on fertilizers would also send a clear signal to the Filipino farmer that the Macapagal administration will not hesitate to take action to stimulate the agriculture sector," the group said in its letter to Ms Macapagal.

Air Philippines to push ahead with int'l flights

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

AIR Philippines Corp. said yesterday that it would push ahead with its plan to fly destinations abroad despite a sharp increase in war-related insurance premiums and unilateral imposition of a P50-million limit on third-party war-risk insurance cover.

In an interview, Air Philippines assistant vice president Leah Sison said the country's third flag carrier was scheduled to hold its maiden international flight to Brunei on Nov. 3.

The flight may no longer be postponed as a contract has already been signed with the Brunei government, she said.

She did admit, however, that Air Philippines had been operating on the "losing side" due to successive fuel price increases and a slowdown in tourists arrivals.

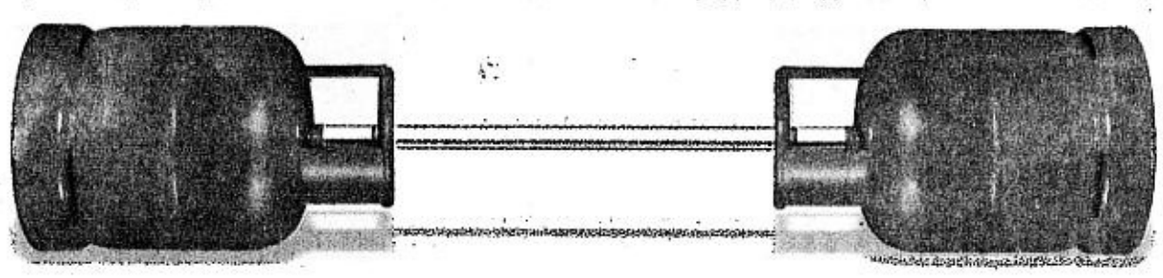
"But we're getting by and coping. We have our share of debts, but we're trying to make our operations viable," Sison said.

To help the flag carrier cope with rising costs, Sison said an application was filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board for an 11- to 14-percent fare increase.

"Our last increase was this March. Since then, a lot of increases in fuel prices have happened. This will be the first time (in over six months) that we'll increase our fare," she said.

If the CAB approves the increase, it will take effect on Oct. 16, she said.

Air Philippines also filed an application with the CAB for a P300- and $6-insurance surcharge per passenger that would cover the high war-related insurance premiums.



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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

UE empowers educational E-volution

EMPOWERING the educational e-volution by the integration and application of information technology in the educational system, the University of the East is introducing the latest trend in accessing processed information to its students and graduates. Being technologically innovative while catering to the needs of students, UE is launching the first one-stop student information retrieval system which will allow fast, easy and safe access of student records any time. The University's tech savvy is utilizing a data retrieval system as an offshoot of the fully online real-time campus system of the University which has incorporated all the academic, administrative and financial requirements of the students from admission to graduation.

Touch-point terminals have been conspicuously installed in strategic locations in the school premises. These include a CPU, a flat-screen monitor, bar code reader, printer and speaker. These interactive information kiosks can be operated through a touch screen. UE students can now transact and access their records simply by swiping their IDs and entering their PIN.

The kiosks will initially make available academic information on curricular offerings, schedules of subjects every semester, faculty teaching assignments, and subjects a particular student may need for enrollment purposes. Also included are information on student grades or tentative transcripts, subjects currently enrolled in, as well as information on student account balances, and information on current University activities for promoting student participation.

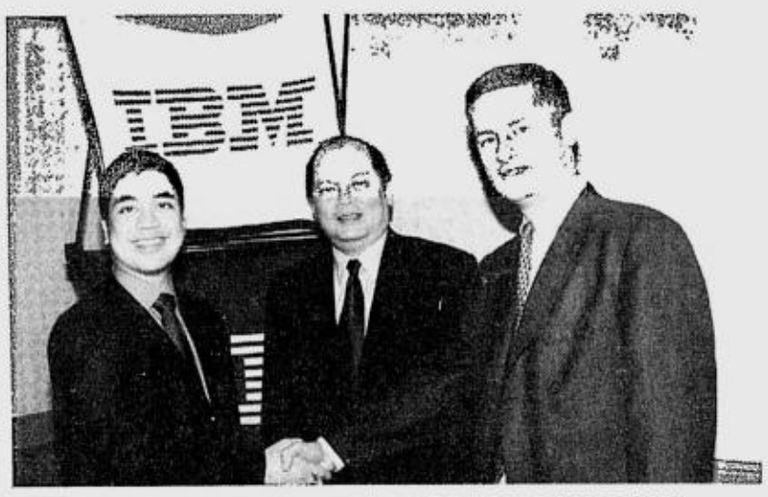
The kiosk system minimizes the administrative task of providing the information needs of UE students regarding account balances and academic records. Applications for transcript of records and other pertinent documents can now be quickly facilitated. In addition, the kiosks will take care of the students' information needs even after the office hours of University personnel.

Future developments of the kiosks will include the University's curricular and scholarships offerings. Campus information will also be featured, as well as information on individual colleges, the faculty and staff, to give prospective students a preview of a particular college. The kiosks will also present exhibits commemorating events traditionally celebrated in the University.

The information kiosks are part of the University of the East's commitment to its Total Student Care Policy.

MARINDUCARE AFFAIR

On the occasion of the 12th year of volunteer social service in the province of Marinduque, the Marinducare Foundation held an appreciation dinner dance recently at the Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati, with Nonoy Lopez and his band. The chairs for this year's celebrations are Jolan F. Lumawig, Lorna Quinto Velasco, Susan Sy Gotaco, and Peter Aventajado. The Marinducare board of trustees are Victor H. Rodriguez (chair), and officers Patria N. Jacinto, Renato L. Paras, Luisita Sandoval Itchon, lawyer Delia Hermoso, lawyer Alice Villasinor Pesigan, Albine Hidalgo Padua, Milagrosa Laguio Querubin and Bernardo Jamilla. Shown are the participants of 'Lanceros de Marinduque' special dance number, seated from left, Lory Mercader Jambalos, Nena Mogol Alino, Chil Lumawig Uy, Pat Nepomuceno Jacinto, Citas Mercader Reyes, Irene de la Santa Kho and chair Rodriguez. Standing are Dr. Robbie Montillano, lawyer Greg Madrigal Buhain, engineer Tony Alino, Jolan F. Lumawig, Dr. Leonardo Gonzales, Dr. Chino R. Maaño and Danny Valero.



INTEGRATED IBM SOFTWARE GROUP LAUNCHED

Victor M. Silvino (left) was recently appointed as the new country manager for the combined IBM and Lotus software group. The expansion of the IBM software group in the Philippines marked the launch of the industry's comprehensive e-business infrastructure software solutions and professional services unit that houses the four major IBM software brands, namely Lotus, WebSphere, DB2/Informix and Tivoli. 'Working as a cohesive team will enable us to work closely with our partners and efficiently address our customers' needs for greater synergies,' said Silvino. 'By consolidating our strategies for the whole IBM software group, we will not only offer a complete e-business software solutions approach, but also reestablish IBM as an even stronger force to reckon with in the software solutions and services front.' Welcoming Silvino into the IBM software group is Erik Elzerman (right), IBM software general manager for Asean/South Asia, as IBM Philippines chair Ramon Y. Dimacali looks on.

Singapore Airlines' KrisFlyer wins award

SINGAPORE Airlines' (SIA) frequent flyer program KrisFlyer picked up its first ever award at the Time Readers' Travel Choice Awards held in Singapore last night.

In a recent survey of Time's inaugural issue of Time Traveler, SIA's KrisFlyer emerged tops in the most popular airline frequent flyer program category. SIA also picked up the preferred airline award.

The Hong Kong-based magazine conducted a survey of its readers over a three-month period starting April this year, and respondents came from more than 12 different Asian countries, including China, Japan, Korea and India.

At the TravelWeekly East's Inaugural Innovators Awards 2001 held in July, SIA won the best innovator award. Singapore-based TravelWeekly East said that "the objective of the Innovators Award is to recognize companies and players in Asia/Pacific which have been innovative in differentiating themselves from the competition by applying cutting edge management techniques."

Further away from home, SIA picked up several notable awards over the last few months.

US-based Worth Magazine awarded SIA top rated airline in its Readers' Choice Survey in July. Another US magazine, Travel & Leisure, named SIA as the best foreign airline in its World's Best Award in the same month.

In June, SIA garnered two awards in the United Kingdom. Guardian/Observer Travel presented SIA best leisure airline in its recent travel awards and SIA won the best airline to Southeast Asia category in the Selling Long Haul Travel Awards section of the UK Travel Industry Awards. Elsewhere, in Italy, Motor Show magazine awarded SIA best airline company for Far East for 2001.

These awards are the latest in the growing haul of awards SIA has received from around the world.

MOTOROLA INAUGURATION

Motorola Communications Philippines Inc. recently inaugurated its new main offices following the consolidation of the company's different business groups in the country in one corporate headquarters. Motorola's global telecoms solution sector (GTSS), semiconductor products sector (SPS), broadband communications sector (BCS), personal communications sector (PCS), the commercial, government and industrial solutions sector (CGISS), and the corporate group are now located in Salcedo Towers (21st Floor, 169 H. V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village) in Makati. Shown is Ricky F. Lacson, Jr. (extreme left), president of Motorola Communications Philippines Inc. and country sales manager of CGISS, cutting the ceremonial ribbon during the inauguration. With him are.(from right) Peter Buenaseda, Motorola country HR manager; Angelita B. Flores, vice president, Jemeli Realty Corp., and Margie Rose A. Figueroa, senior sales administrator, CGISS. Motorola's new corporate headquarters can be reached at 893-2565, 840-3413 to 21, 892-5958 to 64 and 810-0762.

NEW AD AGENCY FOR PACIFIC PLANS

In an effort to further boost its image as the country's pre-need pioneer, Pacific Plans Inc. recently inked a deal with Aspac Advertising for the company's advertising requirements. Leading the contract signing held at the executive office of the Grepalife Building in Makati were Pacific Plans president and CEO Alfredo Antonio (seated, second from left) and Aspac president Miguel Ramos (seated, third from left). Witnessing the event were Pacific Plans EVP for marketing support Norman Gonzalez (seated, extreme left), Pacific Plans AVP for PR and corporate communications Knette Fernando (seated, extreme right), Pacific Plans senior manager for public relations Vangie de Guzman (standing, left) and Aspac AVP for account management Candy Mamawal (standing, right).

Japs Restaurant in Bonifacio Stopover soon to open

JAPS, the modern Japanese restaurant located in Food Choices at The Town, Alabang Town Center will launch its new branch in Fort Bonifacio, Global City.

Owners Wilfredo and Cynthia Castillo had the idea of putting up a Japanese restaurant, as they had been frequent visitors of Japan back in the '70s for their travel agency business. The Castillo family have been Japanese food lovers since then and they applied for food stall space with Ayala Land in 1999. Having the approval of Ayala Land, the owners' concept of a Japanese food stall became a reality in March last year.

Cynthia and her daughter Roxanne are the main operators of the restaurant. Before Japs opened, the mother and daughter team went through Japanese cooking classes and comprehensive restaurant management courses. They also got very good chefs who were trained for years by Japanese chefs. Most of all, the owners use only authentic Japanese ingredients in their preparation of meals. All freshly cooked, offering delectable Japanese cuisine and the ambience of typical restaurants in Japan, Japs will give you your money's worth due to its unbelievably reasonable prices.

Japs invites you to "experience the real taste of Japan." The Castillos formally opened their Fort Bonifacio Stopover branch on Sept. 28.

AGA AND CHARLENE'S MEMORABLE SCENE

Ace commercial director Jun Reyes (second from left) gives final instructions to Aga and Charlene before shooting the Argentina corned beef commercial while PMCI marketing director Raffy Lantin (left) listens. Unknown to many, the two Argentina talents treasured each and every step they had to make in the sensual 'tango' advertisement. Cupid's arrow flew straight and true, and Argentina was a key instrument to their love story.

GLOBE EXECS PARTY WITH GENTXTERS

Globe Handyphone GENTXT, your passport to the latest gimmicks and big discounts, recently feted its club members in an anniversary bash with simultaneous parties held in Manila, Baguio, Cebu and Davao. In Manila, the celebration took place at the Eastwood City Walk in Libis, Quezon City, hosted by MTV VJ Ed Fiest and Pia Guanio. Popular bands Time and a Half and Passage rendered rousing numbers, while lucky GENTXTers went home with limited edition GENTXT jackets and CDs as well as gift certificates from some of GENTXT partner establishments. Shown is GENTXT endorser Donita Rose together with Globe Telecom COO Edward Ying.

BITS Clips

Bridal fair in Midtown

The Philippine Academy of Fashion Designers (PAFD) presents "I Do...," a bridal exhibit from Sept. 29-30 at the Manila Midtown Hotel. There will be a bridal fashion show featuring the wedding gowns and formal wear of all participating designers and bridal labels and the country's top fashion designers. Aside from viewing the wedding displays on exhibit, buyers and guests will be kept busy all day long with product presentations, lectures on floral arrangements, and hair and make-up demonstrations. "I Do..." is a joint celebration of PAFD and the Manila Midtown Hotel on its 25th year. Sponsors are New Fresh Burst Listerine, Joey 92.3 Rhythms, Waling-Waling Beach Resort, Hairwatch and Balloons at My Wedding Celebration Cakes, 103.5 K Lite Event 2B4U.

Finex economic briefing

The Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex), through its professional development committee, is inviting the public to attend the 2001 economic briefing which will be held on Oct. 1, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. Notable speakers are led by Karoly Okolicsanyi, financial market development advisor of the USAid to speak on the global economic scenario for 2002, AIM professor Romulo Neri, and Neda assistant director general Ofelia M. Templo. For inquiries, call the Finex Secretariat c/o Sylvia M. Refuerzo at 811-4052, 811-4184 and 811-4186, or e-mail smrefuerzo@finex.org.ph.

3M SPONSORS PAS CONVENTION

3M recently sponsored the Philippine Association of Secretaries (PAS) Administrative Professionals' 2001 National Convention at the Sunshine Mansion, Tagaytay City. With 'Excellence in Challenging Times... Transcending Boundaries' as the theme, the event was graced by Department of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon as keynote speaker. Bim Mercado, 3M stationery products/office supplies division head gave a presentation on 'Achieving Excellence with Quality Office Products.' Over the years, 3M has revolutionized the way we organize our workplace with indispensable products like the Post-Its, 3M Scotch Tapes and 3M Scotch Masking Tape. Shown (from left) are Pen Lim, 3M sales representative, Lulu Cortez, 3M executive assistant and PAS Secretary of the Year 1996; Bim Mercado, 3M division head; Richard Gordon, Vez Arboleda, 3M HR manager, Car Garcia, 3M marketing specialist, and Mely Conchu, PAS officer.

Prevention still the best cure for heart diseases

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

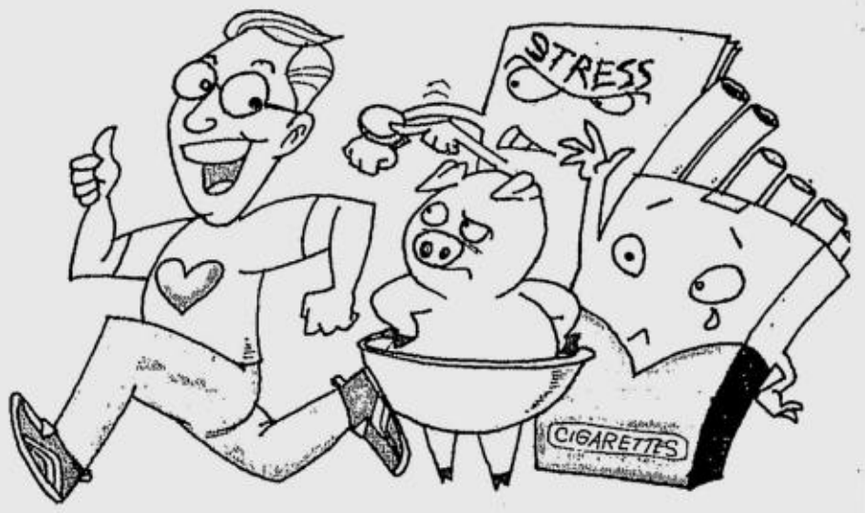


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

IT'S really hard to ignore this fist-sized organ inside our chest whenever it starts throwing tantrums at us. Whether it's just wearied from strenuous exertion or from the years of abuse, our heart is like a rugged machine that will keep on pumping blood throughout our system until it can no longer do so. It only stops functioning when we're already dead.

And so time and again, our doctors keep on reminding us to take care of our heart. They may sound like a broken record, but ignoring them is simply suicide. Even with the advancement of science—new heart devices and latest surgical procedures—heart disease and stroke is still a leading cause of death worldwide. It accounts for 45 percent of all death in industrial countries and up to 25 percent of deaths in other countries. In the Philippines, it is estimated at 20 percent.

Healthy lifestyle drive

The World Heart Federation celebrates the World Heart Day every Sept. 30 "to help make people all over the world aware of just how extraordinary our heart really is, how to look after it and how to reduce the risk of damaging it." This is in line with its healthy lifestyle campaign and the promotion for the prevention of cardiovascular diseases.

The federation is made up of members from 139 societies of cardiology and heart foundations in 95 countries, and the Philippine Heart Association/ Heart Foundation of the Philippines is among its members.

Living life to the full

"World Heart Day is not just about preventing this killer disease, but living life to the full, whatever your age and situation," explained PHA president Dr. Edgardo Ortiz during the organization's "Puso sa Puso" media forum at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

Dr. Ortiz also announced the observance of World Heart Day tomorrow and revealed the various activities, spearheaded by the PHA and the Department of Health, which is highlighted by a 5K Fun Run at the Quezon Circle and UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City.

The whole idea of the "Heart for Life" theme of tomorrow's celebration is to encourage the public that prevention is still the best cure for cardiovascular diseases," added Dr. Ortiz. "The Fun Run is just one of the many activities since our chapters nationwide also prepared other events."

Apart from tomorrow's activities, the PHA also announced its two international events to be held next month. These are the 9th Asian Pacific Conference on Doppler and Echocardiography on Oct. 1-2 and the 13th Asian Pacific Congress of Cardiography from Oct. 3 to 6. Both events are going to be held at the Edsa Shangri-La in Mandaluyong City.

Healthy heart tips

The worldwide scope of the celebration aims at disseminating to the people how extraordinary our heart is. In line with this, the federation came up with 10 tips for a healthy heart. Dr. Ortiz expressed that these tips are rather simple but one's determination is needed to follow them.

- **Exercise regularly**—Just 30 minutes of brisk walking every day or even a few bouts of exercise between 10 and 15 minutes a few times a day will help you have a healthy heart for life. Other fun activities are jogging, beach sports, swimming, cycling, golf, dancing, gardening and even housework.
- **Eat well**—It's one of life's joys. But watch your diet and try to keep to low fat, low cholesterol food whenever you can.
- **Keep to a healthy weight**—It's much more comfortable. If your weight is too high, you'll be putting a strain on your heart.
- **If you smoke try to give up the habit**—We know it's difficult, but there are groups that help and this will make a big difference in preventing heart disease and also can reduce the risk of suffering from lung cancer. Also encourage and support your friends in quiting smoking.
- **Relax, cut stress**—Smile on life when you can and try to be as relaxed as possible. You won't just be happier, you'll be healthier, too.
- **Check your blood pressure**—Visit your doctor to have your blood pressure checked and to find out if you have hypertension. Your doctor can prescribe treatment and will reduce your risk of heart disease or stroke.
- **Check if you have diabetes**—If you are diabetic, you have a greater risk of heart disease if it is not adequately controlled. Treatment for diabetes is basic to general health as well as a healthy heart—so ask your doctor.
- **Watch your cholesterol level**—High cholesterol levels contribute to heart disease but often a healthy diet is enough to bring cholesterol levels back to normal.
- **Check your health**—Go to your doctor once a year for a checkup—even if you are feeling well as you may not have any noticeable symptoms. Your doctor will check if you're really normal.
- **Have a heart for life**—Look after your heart so you can live better and longer. The younger you start the better, but it is never too late to begin. Why not also show you have a heart by telling your family and friends.

Greetings from parents

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

WHO among us parents have not felt pain from parenting? Of course, in a functional family, the joys should outweigh the ills. From Baby Mangahas [maria_mangahas @usa. net]:

I read your column (May 19, 2001) this morning. The article about Bill Gates' alleged message was great! I wonder if you can e-mail me the exact thing your husband mailed you. It will help me a lot in the situation I am in right now in relation to my three children. I plan to have it enlarged and post it in their rooms so they can ponder on them (hopefully). Thus, the next time we have an argument about how unfair some rules in the house are, how boring (uncool) parents we are, and other pertinent things which the list mentions, they can somehow find some explanation from the article. Hopefully, it will also make them see things from the point of view of us parents.

I hope you can do this for me. I know it will be a great help for all of us in the family. It might lessen the arguments, therefore the emotional pain that accompanies them. Thank you very much and God bless you and your family.

First of all, a sharp reader who wishes to remain anonymous, pointed out that the rules are not by Bill Gates, but by Charles Sykes, author of the book "Dumbing Down Our Kids: Why American Children Feel Good About Themselves But Can't Read, Write, or Add." Refer to the website of the San Fernando Valley Folklore Society at www.snopes.com/spoons/document/liferule.htm.

Second, welcome to the world of parenting–teenagers, I presume? I sympathize with your situation (and I am actually gearing myself up for the day when my toddler screams, "You are so unfair!"), but I believe that far from being unique, your plight is quite common, and in fact, something all parents (and teenagers) go through. Adolescence is a transition period from the dependency of childhood (which includes looking at parents as virtual gods) to adulthood (where criticisms of parents are practically universal). Don't worry—bargaining and arguments are one of the ways your children are testing their wings. Of course, you have to set ground rules, but make sure to listen to their side. Perhaps you can adapt win-win situations. Even though I am not a fan of "magic solutions," you may want to take a look at Stephen Covey's "Seven Habits for Highly Effective Families."

I am sorry I cannot e-mail you my husband's message, because I have the habit of deleting e-mails once I have read or used them. I suggest that you print out Charles Sykes' rules from my article, decorate them if you will, and hang them in a prominent place in the house (like the living room). Hanging them in your children's rooms might be too much "in their face" and might backfire. It would be a good idea to discuss the rules with your family (ask your children for their interpretations) before you adapt them. God bless you and your family, too!

From Elsa G. Rico, Kampri Building, Pasong Tamo, Makati:

I read your article last March 25, 2001. I regretted not having read your previous issue (September 2000) on Kumon and Aloha as mentioned by a reader. My two elementary kids are interested in enrolling in this program. We reside in Parañaque. Would you know of any school or organization offering such programs? How do we know if they offer a good program? Would you recommend good sources for this inquiry? My children are eager to spend vacation enrolling in this course.

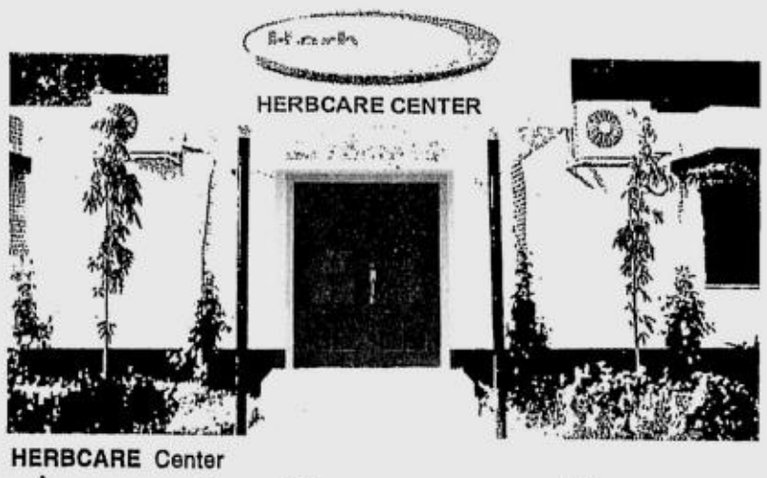
This reply comes too late for summer this year, but perhaps you can find it useful for next year. In my previous articles, I explained that though the objective of these programs are good (to develop children's mathematical skills in a way different from traditional classroom learning), I am not sure that every single franchisee (yes, they are franchises) has the qualifications to deliver the goods, as they say. I still believe that children can learn math effectively without these programs, and that the best way for your kids to learn math would be for you (or your husband or sister or brother, etc.) to sit down with them, be patient, spend time going through basic concepts. I refuse to believe that middle- and upper-class parents are so scared of math that they cannot do elementary arithmetic! (By the way, "new math" is not really new—in fact, I have to say that fundamental math ideas have remained the same since the dawn of civilization.) This is also the reason I do not advocate hiring tutors (unless the tutor is a trusted person, or better still, a relative).

Readers, I know many of you will disagree with me here, especially working parents who practically have no time to sit down with their kids. I am still not letting you off the hook, though. They are your kids—if you don't have time for them, who does?

I also happen to believe that summer is a time for children to take a break. If adults need a two-week break every year, then so much more for kids. However, if it is your kids' idea to enroll in these programs, then I commend them. How do you know if the program is good? You can ask some questions, such as how are their math teachers trained, what schools do their personnel come from, what degrees do they possess, what is the learning style, will there be a refund if your children don't want to continue after a couple of sessions. Good luck.

* * *

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She also writes a Wednesday column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net. She can be reached at Ateneo de Manila University, Mathematics Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail her at blessbook @yahoo.com.)



HERBCARE Center

A cut above other herbal factories

AT FIRST glance, the Herbcare Center, which houses the offices, warehouse and processing facilities of Herbcare Center International Inc., manufacturer of the distinctive herbal antidiabetic product Charantia Ampalaya Health Drink, appears to have a simple foundation. But then there's definitely more in that newly refurbished factory, with its relaxing green façade and clean interiors, than meets the eye.

Indeed the fully, air-conditioned Herbcare Center may not be large but it's a cut above other herbal factories in the country.

"While a modest one, it's a factory that follows good manufacturing practices as prescribed by the Bureau of Food and Drugs," says Herbcare chair Lito Abelarde. "We invested in this center because we wanted to assure the public that the product they would be consuming will be reliable in terms of standard quality and good raw material handling and processing."

Recognizing the tremendous potential of the Charantia bitterless *ampalaya* tea of capturing the local and international market, the company actually started to penetrate the European market under the brand name "Charantea." It has been initiating efforts to maintain the product's high quality and provide diabetic consumers with the option to choose the product form. Charantia will soon be available in tea bag and capsule form.

In less than two years, Charantia has gained the distinction of being the country's No. 1 selling herbal supplement for diabetics. It is available nationwide in Mercury Drugstore outlets and other leading drugstores and selected supermarkets.

Anti-aging, cardiac expo

A HEALTH expo on anti-aging and cardiac wellness will be held tomorrow, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exposition, a project of the Philippine Federation of Natural Health and Environment Friendly Organizations, will showcase free tasting of the latest scientifically tested health products on anti-aging and cardiac wellness. The Health World Clinics will provide free blood pressure checkup, blood sugar and cholesterol tests and eye examination at designated hours. Interested parties may coordinate with Grace at 636-7933, 632-9989.

US-based health professionals, Dr. Eleazar M. Kadile and Genia I. Kadile, a certified clinical nutritionist of the Center for Integrative Medicine, Wisconsin, will provide free medical consultation.

Forum on arthritis, osteoporosis

THE SAN Juan de Dios Hospital, in celebration of the Geriatric and Bone and Joint Decade Action Week, will hold a lay forum on arthritis and osteoporosis on Oct. 12 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the outpatient department. There will also be a free clinic on Oct. 13 at the Physical Rehab and Sports Medicine Section at the ground floor of the hospital's main building. The clinic will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a starter dose of prescribed medicine, consultation, peripheral bone scan, and physical and occupational therapy. For details, call up Jonathan or Gigi, 831-9731 local 1122 or 831-9468.

The case of the coxibs (A rejoinder)

BY DR. RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, MD

MEDICAL FILES

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

THE COXIB issue has again simmered down just as it did several months back when its cardiovascular concern was first raised. Cleveland Clinic consultants—Drs. Bebabrata Mukhergee, Steven Nissen and Eric Topol—wrote the article in the August issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (Jama) that resurrected the cardiovascular issue on the coxibs. This Jama article was picked up by our local media and was unfortunately magnified without much benefit of a medical perspective.

The manner it was played up by our local media, especially television, probably merits a paragraph or two. Media certainly play an important role in educating the public about the safety hazards of drugs, particularly newly introduced ones. But synthesizing the "essence" of a scientific paper can be really tricky sometimes. Picking a few statements from a scientific paper may lead to an erroneous conclusion if taken in the wrong context, a trap very easy to fall into.

Even experts on scientific researches have to thoroughly read the full manuscript, including the appendices, several times before they can make an objective appraisal of a study. The manuscript of a scientific paper is not only assessed in terms of its form or prose content, but more so on the methodology from which the conclusions were derived.

Cardiovascular risk

We share the Cleveland consultants' concern about doctors and patients being aware of this small but potential cardiovascular risk. In fact, we raised the issue ahead of them—in the Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences (April-June 2001 issue) and the Philippine Journal of Internal Medicine (May-June 2001 issue). Our conclusion and recommendation were very much the same as theirs, only worded differently. There were also some local media invitations to expound on the issue, but we politely begged off since we believed the date were and are still insufficient to make any just conclusion.

This issue is therefore a challenge both to the practising physicians and to the manufacturers of the coxibs. Unless resolved by a well-conducted clinical trial specifically addressing the cardiovascular concern, this issue will take the perpetual pattern of dying down and being resurrected from time to time.

Such clinical trial will be a big trial that will require mega-finding, and the big question is: Who will fund the trial? If the manufacturers of the coxibs are confident (as they apparently are) that their products do not cause significant adverse effects on the heart, brain, kidneys and blood vessels, then they should be willing to pick up the tab for a trial to be conducted by independent investigators. Without this credible clinical trial, the coxibs will be eventually doomed to a sensationalized drug trial by publicity.

Even if there is only the slightest possibility that such a cardiovascular risk might exist, the coxib manufacturers should take it upon themselves to resolve this dilemma with an appropriate and independently conducted study to prove the safety of their respective products. Resistance to do such a trial by the coxib manufacturers will reinforce the impression that they're afraid the trial might show some skeletons in the closet.

Standard form

Practising physicians should also do their part. All new drug introductions are under a so-called monitored-release registration and our local Bureau of Food and Drugs enjoins all physicians to report to the BFAD any serious adverse effect they note in their patients when they are taking these new drugs. Physicians have to assist the BFAD in monitoring new drugs. The BFAD has a thousand priorities with their meager resources and manpower, and cannot possibly accomplish a thorough monitoring of all new products unless assisted by the physicians.

I suggest though that the BFAD come up with a standard form that the doctor can just fill up and submit by fax, mail or e-mail. Speaking of e-mail, perhaps the BFAD should have its own website to facilitate communication, data-gathering and exchange of ideas with physicians and members of the pharmaceutical industry.

In the interest of fair play, we are giving space to excerpts of two letters, one co-signed by Doctors Bob Ysla, medical director of Pharmacia; and Tony Leachon, medical director of Pfizer; and another letter sent by Dr. Beaver Tamesis, MSD medical director and Christine Liwanag, MSD corporate communications director. Pharmacia and Pfizer co-market celecoxib (Celebrex) while MSD market rofecoxib (Vioxx).

Flawed analysis

Bob and Tony wrote:

"This new generation of arthritis medicines (called 'COX-2 Specific Inhibitors' or 'Coxibs') were designed to deliver pain relief with significantly, lower risks of gastrointestinal ulcers and ulcer complications compared with older generation anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). The wire reports have been quoting an article by Mukherjee et al., published in the August 22/29th edition of The Journal of the American Medical Association (Jama) hypothesizing a link between COX-2 specific inhibitors and increased cardiovascular adverse events.

"The article in Jama is based on a flawed analysis, which is receiving criticisms from medical experts both internationally and locally. The authors of this Jama article acknowledge that their analysis has significant limitations. Furthermore, this analysis is inconsistent with the worldwide clinical experience of Celecoxib, including studies with thousands of patients submitted to the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA)—the 8,000-patient Celecoxib Long-term Arthritis Safety Study (CLASS), and other postmarketing surveillance worldwide, covering an estimated 21.5 million patients. Both companies believe it is essential to exercise extreme caution in drawing any conclusion from the type of analysis presented in the Jama article.

"The cardiovascular safety profile of Celecoxib was carefully considered at a recent Feb. 7, 2001 US FDA Arthritis Advisory Committee meeting, which concluded that Celecoxib demonstrated no increased cardiovascular risk in comparison to NSAIDs studied (ibupofen and diclofenac). Pharmacia and Pfizer strongly support the cardiovascular safety profile of Celecoxib.

"Both Pharmacia and Pfizer stand behind the safety of Celecoxib as an innovative treatment option for patients who suffer from arthritis. We are very concerned that news items based on flawed studies will lead to misperceptions that confuse a less-discerning public, to the detriment of patients and the medical community. It must be remembered that older generation NSAIDs, which are the only alternatives to coxibs, have a proven track record of life-threatening gastrointestinal ulcers and ulcer complications.

"Pharmacia and Pfizer have every confidence that Celecoxib has an excellent overall safety profile and our commitment to patient safety is paramount."

Effective medication

Beaver and Christine sent this message:

"MSD assures doctors and patients that Vioxx is an effective arthritis and pain medication and has a very good safety profile. The US FDA and the local Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD) approved Vioxx for the relief of the signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis, in the management of acute and treatment of menstrual pain. Recently, Vioxx was also approved by the BFAD for rheumatoid arthritis.

"MSD believes Vioxx is a well-investigated, appropriate and efficacious therapy for the management of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and acute pain in adults. Since Vioxx was introduced in 1999, physicians in the United States alone have written more than 40 million prescriptions for this new important medicine. MSD reconfirms the overall cardiovascular safety profile and the favorable gastrointestinal profile of Vioxx.

"Clinical findings showed that the risk of cardiovascular problems in patients taking Vioxx was similar with those taking a placebo or sugar pill or the popular. NSAIDs ibuprofen, diclofenac and nabumetone. The same is true with regard to renal side effects. In clinical trials in osteoarthritis involving Vioxx, there have been no significant differences between Vioxx and other NSAIDs in terms of renal effects.

"Patient safety is always of paramount importance to MSD. We routinely review data from completed studies and clinical use of our products. MSD continues to make patients' health and well-being its top priority and all efforts are being made to accomplish that."

With that, we finally put the coxib issue to rest, hopefully never to be resurrected again unless there are new conclusive data. May this issue rest in peace.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

An unsocial cancer

BY MASSIE K. SANTOS

DR. George Fisher is a tall, blond and blue-eyed medical oncologist from the Stanford Medical Center in California. His pleasant features and soft-spoken manner belie the fact that he has one of the more unpleasant-sounding jobs in the medical profession: taking care of people with rectal cancer.

It is doubtful that most people who decide to study medicine have even heard of this disease, yet at the 15th annual science convention earlier this month, the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology held a symposium to discuss the controversies in rectal cancer treatments.

Joining Fisher on the panel were Dr. Alberto Roxas, a surgical oncologist at the Philippine General Hospital, Dr. Miriam Calaguas, a radiology oncologist at St. Luke's Medical Center and Dr. Chris Willett, a professor of radiation oncology from Massachusetts General Hospital.

Rectal cancer is not a popular topic of conversation for two reasons.

Like any other type of cancer, the words alone evoke thoughts of prolonged hospital stays, surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and death, not a pleasant topic of conversation.

That this particular cancer involves a part of the anatomy not mentioned in polite society for the unpleasant thoughts it brings means that very few people even know that it exists, and that those who have some knowledge of it will hardly talk about it outside of a hospital. That attitude has to be changed however and like breast cancer before it, doctors hope that the time may come when people will no longer consider the topic taboo.

Colon cancer, or more accurately, colorectal cancer, affects the large intestine. The first six feet of the intestine make up the colon, while the rectum marks the last 8-10 inches. According to Fisher, 25 percent of those who have colorectal cancer are rectal cancer patients, the rectum itself being the lower and more complex part of the colon.

In the United States, the number of men who die from colorectal cancer each year is surpassed only by those who die from lung cancer. Among women, rectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths.

The Philippine Cancer Society says that in this country, colon cancer ranks sixth overall, while rectal cancer ranks 11th on the list of cancers that have claimed lives. Most patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer are in their 50s and may have a family history of cancer/s and high calorie diets.

Three stages

In the early stages of the disease, treatment is relatively quick and fairly painless. Unfortunately, diagnosing the problem is not an easy task.

Fisher says that patients feel no pain during stages 1 and 2 of the disease, when the polyps growing on the inside of the rectum—which may or may not be benign—haven't penetrated the layers of tissue too deeply and can still be easily excised.

By stage 3, however, the cancer has spread to the lymph nodes and radiation therapy, or radiotherapy, is required. If the cancer has spread, surgery to remove the bowel may have to be performed and the patient will spend the rest of his days watching his body's wastes collect in a plastic bag next to his stomach.

Before or after surgery?

The question medical, surgical and radiation oncologists have been debating for the past 15 years is whether or not radiotherapy should be performed before or after surgery to remove the polyps, and whether or not chemotherapy may be necessary. There are a variety of treatments that may be prescribed for a patient, depending on which oncologist treats him.

While most doctors agree on the use of radiotherapy, which focuses on a local area, chemotherapy is not as precise and affects a larger area of the body. As their titles imply, radiation and surgical oncologists oversee those treatments. A medical oncologist, on the other hand, treats not just the cancer, but also oversees the patient's entire well-being.

Fisher says that having all three kinds of oncologists available for consultations to discuss options after the diagnosis has been made gives the patient the ability to make a more informed decision.

In the Philippines and the United States, the standard practice has been to treat patients with radiotherapy and chemotherapy several weeks after the surgery to decrease the chances of the cancer recurring and increase the patient's chances of survival. Studies done over the past decade in the United States and Europe seem to suggest that radiotherapy prior to the operation might further increase the patient's chances of survival through reduced numbers of cancer cells reproducing in his body. If there are fewer cancer cells in the rectum, the disease may be downstaged and its progress through the body halted, and the patient may return home with an intact large intestine that functions normally.

Though these studies, most notable of which are those done by Swedish and Dutch research groups, have yet to be completed, the data they have published have led to a new series of questions. Since studies have found that surgery performed 6-8 weeks after the patient has undergone a course of radiotherapy is most effective in downstaging the disease, surgical oncologists question whether or not the delay caused by having the radiotherapy done prior to the surgery would give the cancer time to spread further throughout the patient's body.

Prevention

The costs of these treatments vary however, thus their use depends on the attending physician, the country involved and the patient's own state of finances. However, unless data are presented to conclusively suggest that one method is better than the other, the debate over how to treat patients with rectal cancer will continue for several more years. In the meantime, are there any ways of avoiding a colostomy?

Fisher listed several tests that can be used to determine if one has colorectal cancer people aged 50 and above would do well to undergo.

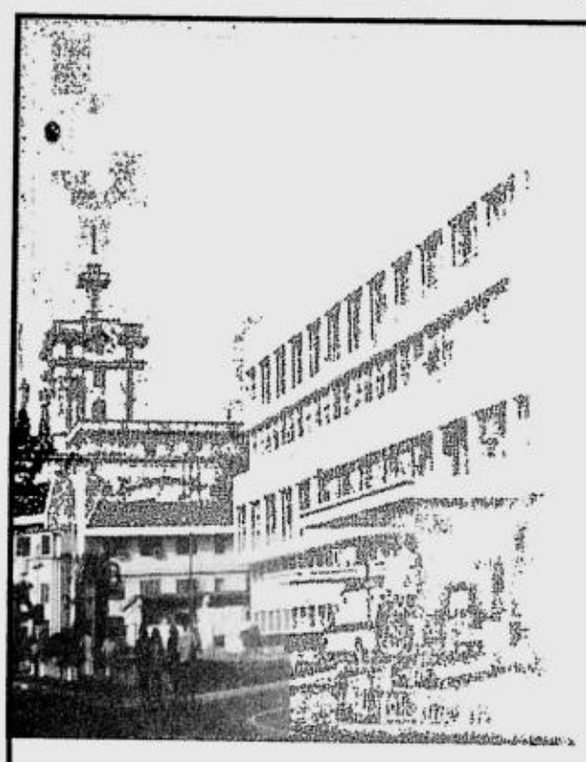
A recently developed technique involves ultrasound equipment to detect the presence of tumors. However, if the technicians have been improperly trained, the patient may be misdiagnosed. Perhaps the easiest test is the fecal occult blood test in which a patient's stool sample is annually checked for traces of blood. This test alone can lead to the early diagnosis of nearly 30 percent of rectal cancer cases, though Fisher laments the fact that few people exercise the option to do so.

A second exam is the sigmoidoscopy in which the doctor looks into the rectum and lower colon to check for polyps and removes any that is seen for further examination. A double contrast barium enema (DCBE) is used to detect the presence of growths in the colon and rectal areas by tracking the barium's movement on X-rays. Both the sigmoidoscopy and the barium enema are tests that can be taken every five years.

Last but not least is the colonoscopy, wherein the doctor looks up the entire colon and can remove any polyps seen. This test is the most costly, but it is so effective it needs to be undergone only once every 10 years.

It's been said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In this case, the failure to take a test may cost someone bathroom privileges for the rest of one's life.

DR. George Fisher is flanked by Doctors Alberto Roxas and Miriam Calaguas. The three were the panelists during the symposium held to discuss the controversies in rectal cancer treatments. Dr. Chris Willett is also included in the panel.



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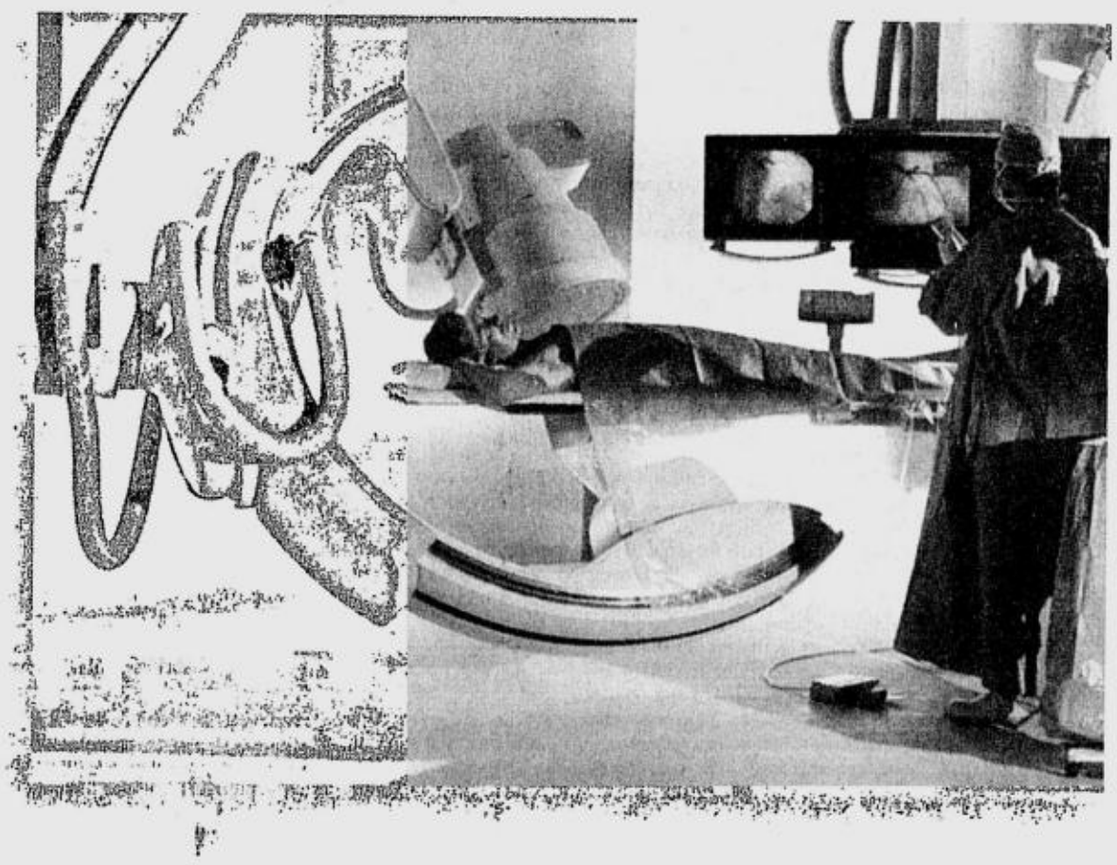

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Generics face uphill battle vs branded drugs

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

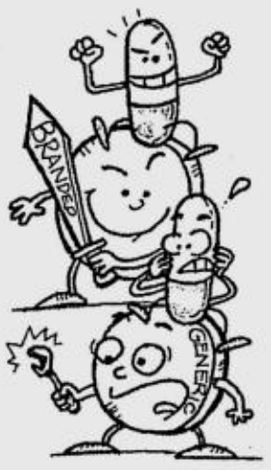

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

IT'S hard to break the Filipino mentality that cheaper medicines are of inferior quality than the more expensive, branded ones.

The Bureau of Food and Drug's policy planning and advocacy division admitted that it is facing an uphill battle in its campaign for "cheaper" but "quality" generic drugs. The "enemy" is the public perception that cheaper medicines are less effective than the more expensive ones.

Generic drugs, the BFAD maintains, are as effective as their "glossy" counterparts. And significantly cheaper, too.

BFAD said that some generic drugs are even three times cheaper than their branded counterparts.

The only difference between generic and branded drugs is in the brand name, the BFAD said. And it is not true that generics are "second class" drugs, it added.

"The processing and manufacturing is the same, no difference at all, because once they are registered, they undergo the same process under the BFAD," said BFAD's policy planning and advocacy consultant Amor Cita M. Pallera.

Drugs for high maintenance diseases (diabetes, hypertension and cardiac diseases) are available in generic form and are as effective as the branded products, said Pallera.

"Aside from the packaging, the only other difference (between generics and branded products) is the heavy advertising," said Pallera.

She said that if a local manufacturer wanted to establish a brand name for a particular medicine and the owner of the company had a daughter whose name was Virginia, the medicine could be named Virgimycin even if its generic name were amoxycilin tryhidrate.

The Generics Act was signed on Sept. 13, 1988 so the government could ensure the medicines are safe, effective and affordable. The act encourages doctors and health professionals to educate their patients and clients on the basic ingredients effective for specific ailments.

The Generics Act stipulates that the generic name of a drug should be displayed prominently on the packaging.

It also requires doctors to use generic names in their prescriptions. Brand names could be optionally indicated, in parentheses, so the patient can choose.

Drugstores are required to have a "menu" card on their counters within easy reach of customers. The menu card is supposed to contain a list of drugs stocked in the pharmacy. On top of each list is the generic name of a particular drug, the branded products and their respective prices.

Treat of the Week

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SaturdaySPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Double Orange Delight

1-1/2 cups NESTLÉ CREAM
3 tbsps. orange juice concentrate
2 large oranges, peeled & sectioned
3 tbsps semi-sweet chocolate chips
2 tsps. butter

Combine cream and orange juice in a bowl. Divide into 4 serving plates. Arrange orange sections on top. Combine chocolate chips and butter. Melt over low heat. Drizzle over oranges and serve. Serves: 4

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

Cesar Montano and his bundle of joy

BY VERON DIONISIO

THE PROUD father and baby Angelina Isabelle.

THERE are two reasons why Cesar Montano is quite inspired these days, despite what's happening everywhere--the World Trade Center terrorist attack, the sad state of the film industry, economic recession in most parts of the world, including this country, etc. One, everybody knows he's the brand-new father of a bouncing baby girl, Angelina Isabelle, his first with his wife, actress Sunshine Cruz. Second, he's back to the drama genre on the small screen via a four-episode stint in GMA's primetime drama series, "Larawan" for the month of October.

Last full show

At the press conference for "Larawan," Cesar proudly recounts how she and Sunshine were watching the last full show at the Rockwell Center on Sunday, the night before Sunshine finally delivered their baby on Monday, Sept. 24. "I felt she was really delaying the delivery. She was very calm. There were no signs that she'd be giving birth the following day. But I told her that after the movies, we would go straight to the hospital," narrates Cesar.

At the hospital last Sunday, doctors started inducing Sunshine at around one o'clock in the afternoon. "But at 8 p.m., *wala pa rin*. I was there, *nagbabantay ako*. So *sabi ng doktor, alis muna ako, baka mga madaling araw pa, mga* 4 a.m., *sabi nila*. At around 11 p.m. *humilab na, manganganak na*. So I hurried back, I didn't know what to do. I rushed out of the room and called her doctors. At exactly 12:25 a.m., she gave birth. I was able to catch the baby coming out of her womb on video," Cesar beams.

How does it feel to be a father again? "It's the same, it's like the first time. I held the baby in my arms and I looked at Sunshine. I was so proud of her. She's very strong. *Awang-awa ako sa kanya* because I know what she went through. I was there," smiles Cesar. "By the way, I was the one who cut the umbilical cord."

Angelina Isabelle is 6.8 pounds and, according to Cesar, looks very much like his wife. "*Parang maliit na* Sunshine. *At noong lumabas 'yung bata, tuwang-tuwa ang lahat dahil maputi raw. Hindi ko alam kong matutuwa ako o maiinsulto ako*!" he jests, evidently contented and happy.

This latest addition to his growing family makes him even more hardworking and focused on his career. He's one of the few actors in the industry who still gets good breaks both in films and on TV. This offer from GMA to do "Larawan" came just in time, when he was still awaiting ABS-CBN's plans for him to do another sitcom, after his sitcom with Maricel Soriano had its final episode early this month.

Timeslot

"ABS-CBN told us that the timeslot would be available in November, so we asked GMA, *sina* Ate Redgie (Acuna-Magno, the show's production manager) if we could do "Larawan" in October so that there would be no conflict with our schedule of tapings for ABS," Cesar says.

According to Magno, GMA had been trying to get Cesar for the show. "The first time I asked them, I was turned down because Cesar was still under contract with ABS-CBN. But I never gave up. The next time I made an offer he had just finished his contract with them," she reveals. "But we still wouldn't want to jeopardize whatever negotiations he's been having with the other network so we waited for a while. And *syempre*, out of respect *din*. Until finally, the schedule was threshed out. Tita Norma (Japitana, Cesar's manager) told us he was free. And of course, welcome *na* welcome *naman* si Cesar *sa* GMA."

CESAR/ P. C7

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Maricel Soriano says comedy is just as difficult as drama

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

Maricel Soriano has been in show biz for as long as we can remember. Her face started appearing on the screens when she was just a little girl. We ask her during the press con for "Mary D' Potter," her new sitcom, whether she missed her childhood. "Yes," is the quick reply. "I had to work at a very young age but I have no regrets. It's a choice I made early in life."

Heavy load

She says that she sometimes pities the young stars of today because their load seems to be much heavier than what she experienced in the past.

"*Naaawa ako sa kanila kasi sobrang dami at dikit-dikit ang* schedule *na ibinibigay sa mga bata. Alam ko, mga bata pa sila. Kaya nila, kasi kinaya rin naman namin* before. *Pero kung ikukumpara mo, iba naman iyung panahon noon sa panahon ngayon. Kaya minsan makikita mo, hulas na hulas na sila. Kami nga nahuhulas, sila pa kaya?*"

But in fairness to the child stars' handlers, Maricel says that the situation is still almost the same as it was in the past. "*Dati, inuuna iyung mga eksena ng mga bata, kasi, mga bata.* In fairness, now, *ginagawa pa rin iyon. Kaya lang, ang* difference is, *parang mas mabigat ang load nila.*"

Resentments

At the same time, Maricel airs her resentments about some of the young stars of today. "Not all of them, of course," she's quick to point out. "Some of them do not show respect. They're very relaxed." Maricel says she grew up being deferential to those who came before her and she is just aghast at how today's young stars forget to pay their respects to the elders on the set. "*Di ba pag dumarating tayo sa* set, *ki*-kiss *tayo kay tita ganito, tita ganoon.* Good morning *po*, good evening *po*, hello *po. Wala na iyon. Iyung respeto sa* director, *iyung* punctuality, *iyung* professionalism."

Basic manners are what Maricel is looking for in the younger stars. Although she does try to understand where they are coming from. "Sometimes *binibigyan ko pa rin ng katwiran kasi alam ko napakadami nilang* shows, but it's no reason for them not to make *bati.*"

But Maricel says she has been lucky because she has never encountered these problems with the young stars that she has worked with in the past. "*Meron akong mga naririnig. Nagpapasalamat ako,* I'm very blessed with *mga nakakasama kong artista*, young or younger *pa.* But I never really had problems with them, *nakikita ko* that they're very professional *kaya ako*

SORIANO. Lost childhood.

grateful *doon sa aspeto na iyon.*"

Maricel loves her chosen profession and it is evident in how she defends it with such a passion. What Maricel does onscreen may look like a piece of cake to others, but she takes offense when people comment, "*Huuu, isang pelikula mo lang iyan!*" She feels that this is a very insulting statement, as she believes, "*Walang trabahong madali.*" Maricel explains, "You know why it appears to be easy? Because I love my work. That's why."

Not an easy job

Maria describes what she goes through as a performer, "You not only get drained physically, but also emotionally. Our job is not easy. Otherwise, *kung madali ito, ginagawa mo na rin iyung ginagawa namin. Sana, sa tagal ng panahon, kung ano iyung inabot namin e sana mas pa doon ang abutin mo pero bakit nandyadyan ka at nandito ako?* I can be very sarcastic regarding these things but I really hate comments like that because our job is not easy." Maricel explains further. "It becomes easy because you laugh at what we do, so that means we're effective."

No to soap opera

Even though she is a formidable drama actress, she purposely chose not to go down the soap opera route, like many other actresses have done. "They like that *e*, so I'll go the other way. Not everybody can do comedy so I'll be the one to do it. *Hindi lahat gustong gawin iyung ganitong klaseng* concept (her "Mary D'Potter" series)." But nevertheless, she says that doing comedy is just as draining as doing a serious drama show. "It's the same! You give your all, all the time. All the sequences, you have to give your 200 percent *kaya kasi kung nakaganyan lang ako, 'Ay,* comedy *pala ito?' Parang hindi tayo nakatono, di ba?*"

Maricel laments that on television, it doesn't matter who you are or what you have achieved. The bottom line is always the ratings. It doesn't matter if you had a good show. If it doesn't rate, it goes. When it comes to movies, Maricel doesn't rely on feedback such as ticket sales to get her fulfillment. "For me *kasi* as long as I know I did a good film, I was able to deliver as an actress, that's it. Well of course, it is another achievement if it really makes money or if it gains recognition. But as an actress, the film itself is your achievement."

Change

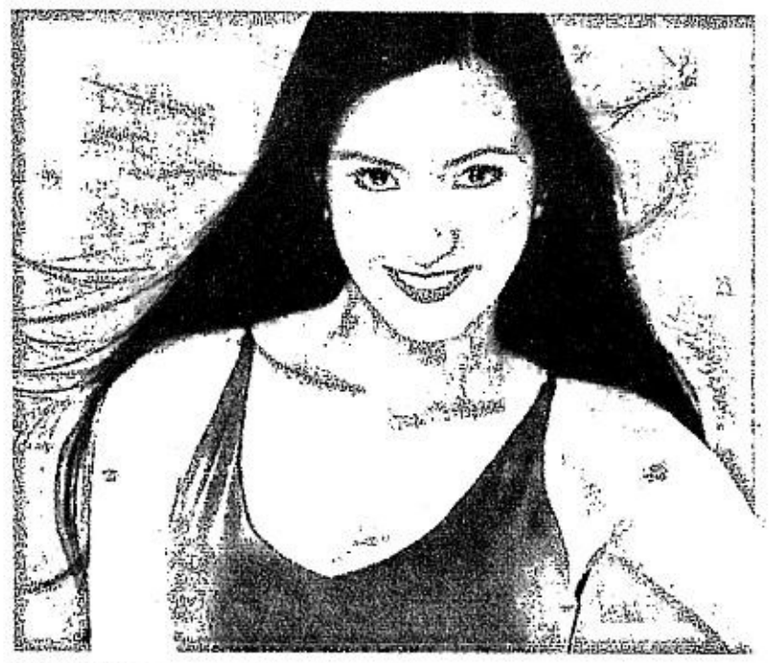
She has been with ABS-CBN for the past 14 years but hints that she could make a move in a couple of years or so. "I told you earlier, I like change." She reminds us. She reveals that she has had offers from other stations to join their ranks. "*Ayaw nila akong lubayan!*" she jokes. She says that she has been pretty much satisfied with the way ABS-CBN has been treating her. "OK *naman.* It's very basic. *Magtatagal ka ba kung hindi mo gusto iyung ginagawa mo?*"

Just like other stars, the downside of show business is having to deal with the loss of privacy. As a star, your viewing public feels that you belong to them, and thus have a say in your life, and have a right to know every single detail of what's going on in your life. "*Iyon nga iyung sinasabi nating* that's the price you have to pay. Ever since I started this work *naman*, my life has been an open book to everybody."

Loss of privacy

However, just as she has accepted that the loss of privacy comes with the territory, she tries to have as much privacy as she can put under her control. "*Napakaimportante non* (privacy) *sa akin! Hindi kasi ako mahilig mangialam kaya ayoko iyung pinakikialaman ako. Hindi ako mahilig magtanong, lalo na* when it comes to personal."

She shares that she doesn't really like going out. "I want to be left alone. *Maraming* complaints, *maraming* expectations. *Kung minsan di mo maiwasan, may pakiramdam silang artista ka e! Ay! Parang nabili niyo pati kaluluwa ko, parang ganoon! Di naman ganoon!*" she protests. "*Umaarte kami para makapagbigay saya o makapagbigay aral, pero hindi ninyo po pag-aari ang buhay namin, magkaliwanagan tayo! Parang gusto mo iyon sabihin pero siyempre, kung minsan, di mo mapapaliwanag ng ganoon.*" Maricel explains with a sigh.



CANONIZADO. A dream come true.

Beauty queen Jo Canonizado gives acting a try in 'Mananabas'

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

JO Canonizado's biggest dream to become a beauty queen became reality when she was crowned Mutya ng Pilipinas Asia Pacific 2000. Like any other beauty queens before her, joining the movies was the logical next move.

Leading lady

Maverick Films was impressed with her beauty and grace and wanted her to be Cesar Montano's leading lady in his next project. The outfit had to wait for a year because Jo had to finish all her commitments during her reign as Mutya 2000 before she could accept movie offers.

Jo is introduced in "Mananabas" an action-fantasy movie which Cesar also directs. Jo plays a newspaper reporter kidnapped by evil elements in the military. She is rescued by Cesar, himself a soldier who leads a lost command known as Oplan Tabas. They are called *Mananabas.*

The beauty queen considers being paired with Cesar as one of the high points of her life. "Cesar is a perfect gentleman," she enthuses, "He treats everyone on the set with care and respect. Patience is also one of his admirable traits. I hear stories about directors pushing their weight around while waiting for the cameras to grind. Cesar doesn't raise his voice when something goes wrong. He is such a calm director. He's got a sense of humor, too.

Gestures

"Regarding my body movements, he told me to minimize my gestures and focus more on my delivery. There was one scene that I really found difficult to do. *Ako kasi ang taong madaling matawa.* Any distraction would make me burst into laughter. *Kung hindi naging matiyaga si direk* Cesar, I would never have done that scene right," she confessed.

Upon signing up with Maverick Films, Jo was told to expect intrigue and controversy, the staple of show biz. True enough, during the shoot of "Mananabas" she was the subject of gossip linking her romantically to Cesar. It went on to say that out of fit of jealousy, the very pregnant wife of Cesar, Sunshine Cruz confronted Jo on the set.

Jo clarified that Sunshine indeed visited the set but not to confront her but to talk to Cesar about a personal matter.

"My parents were the ones upset over the nasty rumors just as I felt really bad. They wanted me to quit show biz. I told them not to worry as I could handle myself. My parents were quite supportive. As for my detractors, if they cannot accept the truth *ay sila ang may problema,*" she says.

Purely professional

Purely professional, no more no less, is how Jo describes her relationship with his leading man and director.

Although "Mananabas" is her first movie, Jo is a familiar face on print ads and TV commercials.

She could have been Mutya ng Pilipinas as early as 1999 but for the objection of a shampoo company which was a main sponsor of the beauty contest. Jo was the model of a competing shampoo brand. She had to back out before the finals after having won so many special awards. Jo was crushed but that didn't stop her from competing the next year. She won in 2000 and relinquished her title to Darlene Carbungco early this year.

She has a fine singing voice and a major record company is eyeing her for a recording contract.

For the moment, it is acting that Jo enjoys doing most. After Cesar, Jo dreams of working with Christopher de Leon, Aga Muhlach and Richard Gomez.

Time to grow up

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW that they're both 23 years old, Jolina Magdangal and Judy Ann Santos should start revising and updating their screen image. For many years now, they've played bubbly film types, and similarly young fans have delighted in their lively portrayals.

But the progress of time is inexorable, and the only thing that remains unchanging is the need to keep up with the changing times. So, now that they're young and adults, Jolina and Juday should think about acting their age.

In her latest film, "Bakit Di Totohanin," Juday still tried to hold on to the past, playing a frisky tomboy who alternately fought with and snuggled against a sassy swain portrayed by Piolo Pascual.

Feisty characterization

The feisty characterization was all too familiar, since viewers had seen Juday essay it in many of her past starrers. Particularly trite were the "*ligawan*" "*awayan*" scenes between the two combative sweethearts that were appended to the movie to raise its "*kilig* factor."

True enough, young viewers did get zapped with enjoyable "*kilig*" jolts every now and then, but how much longer is Juday going to do such *pa*-cute scenes? It's really time for her to update her screen image and catch up with her original fans, many of whom must now be college graduates and young professionals.

Of course, some local female romantic-comedy actresses *never* grow up, which may be what keeps Juday and other young-adult stars from acting their age.

Like, Maricel Soriano is now in her 30s, but sometimes still reverts back to the lively "*babaing bakla*" performance and "ack-ack" delivery of dialogue that made her so popular more than 10 years ago.

But even Maricel is toning down her signature frenetic act, so Judy Ann should follow suit.

JUDY ANN. The transition won't be easy.

Jolina started to develop herself as a versatile performer who can do drama and comedy

Granted, the transition isn't easy and in fact can be scary because a star never knows if fans will warm up to his new, older screen persona. But he really can't hold back the hands of time without eventually looking "TH" as a result.

Product endorser

As for Jolina, she started adjusting her image a couple of years ago, coming on strong as a product and service endorser, particularly in the field of computer education.

She's also tried to tone down her colorful teen-trendy look, opting instead to underscore her having developed herself into a versatile performer who can do drama aside from comedy, if the script calls for it.

Perhaps the key is her hair coloring. If she opts for a darker, more natural color, that would serve notice that she's taking her young-adult status more seriously.

Which is not to say that her performances will cease to be fun—and funny. Rather, she can remain perky, but it's the situations in her TV shows and films that should be updated to suit her young-adult character.

Kooky experiences

Even people in their 20s can have lively, even kooky experiences, so Jolina can still retain her signature jollity, even as she plays college graduates and young professionals.

And her original fans, who are now similarly grown-up, would approve because they can continue to empathize with her as real and screen time marches on.

JOLINA. The key is her hair coloring.

Music channel introduces 'MTV Vitamins'

MTV Philippines has a new and exciting schedule to fit viewers' lifestyles. Beginning Oct. 1, MTV viewers may tune in to watch their favorite programs at a new timeslot. The new schedule was well-thought out by MTV, who changed the timeslots in order to fit the Filipino viewers' lifestyles.

Programming blocks

The MTV programs were classified into three programming blocks, and are appropriately called "MTV Vitamins." These three "vitamins" for the MTV viewer are MTV Vitamin C, MTV Multivitamins and MTV Vitamin Px.

Francis Lumen, MTV Philippines managing director says that, "The schedule changes are appropriately called, 'MTV Fits Your Lifestyle' because MTV understands the Filipino viewers' TV-watching habits, their preferences, tastes, and needs, and we have re-scheduled our programming to adapt to the Filipino viewer. Our new schedule is a reflection of the sensitivity that MTV has towards its viewers."

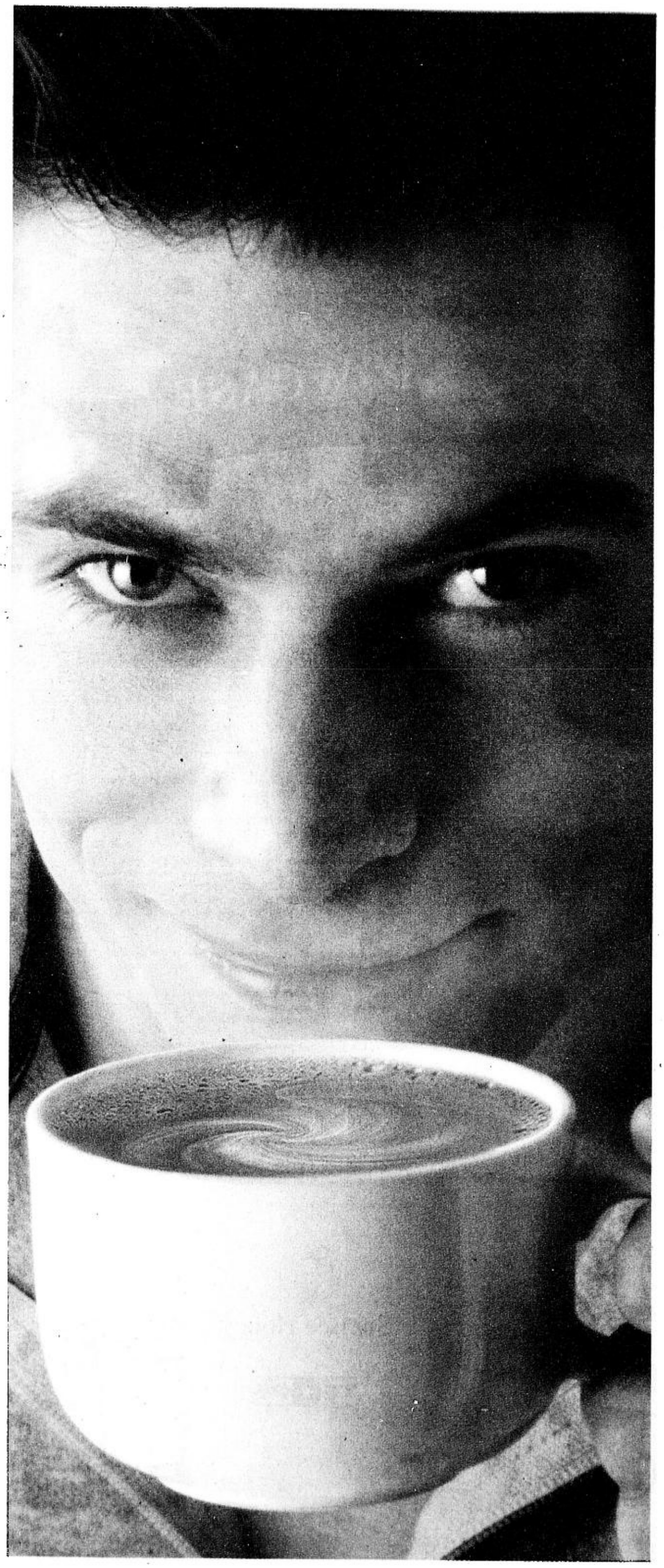
MTV lovers are invited to tune in and make an appointment every day of the week to catch their favorite shows. From Monday to Sunday, 9:30 to 10 a.m., watch shows under the category, MTV Vitamin C(artoons), where shows such as "Spygroove," "Celebrity Death Match," "Daria," and the resurrected "Beavis & Butthead," which is exclusive only to MTV Philippines, can be seen.

'Alternative Nation'

There are also shows to fit one's every mood, MTV Multivitamins, where "MTV Alternative Nation," "MTV Partyzone," "MTV Mush," "Nonstop Hits (Rock)" and "MTV Jams" can be seen every Monday to Friday from 3 to 4 p.m., and from 10 to 11 p.m.

MTV foreign shows are featured on Vitamin Px every Monday to Friday from 2 to 2:30 p.m. and from 6 to 7 p.m. Watch shows such as "Making the Video," "Singled Out," "Road Rules," Cribs," "Jackass," "MTV Presents," and "MTV Live," featuring live concerts and foreign acts.

An added treat for MTV lovers, is "MTV's Weekend Stunts," where MTV specials are featured every Saturday and Sunday, from 2 to 4 p.m., and 9 to 11 p.m.



Guy's house No. 32 is for sale

THE SUPERSTAR used to play a game reminiscent of today's "Pera O Bayong."

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

YES, the house at No. 81 Balete Drive is for sale for P35 million. It belongs to superstar Nora Aunor.

I think, this is news not only because the property was a gift from former President Erap but even more so because this is her thirty-second house in the 32 years that she has been in show business.

The very first house she lived in when she and her mother Mamay Tunying went to Manila to seek fortune and fame was in Nichols Air Base. It was owned by her aunt Mamay Belen who was married to a Sgt. Aunor of the Philippine Air Force.

Singing contests

That was the time when then Nora Villamayor was winning all the singing contests she joined, most notably "Darigold Jamboree" and, of course, "Tawag ng Tanghalan," for which Mamay Tunying changed her name to Nora Aunor for good luck. The rest, as they say, is history.

As destiny smiled on her, they transferred to Cubao, Quezon City, in an apartment on Natib st., I remember, it was here that, because of Mamay Tunying's strictness, Guy used to go over the fence to secretly meet with boyfriend Tirso Cruz III—or was it Manny de Leon at the time?

The Superstar phenomenon revved to high gear in the huge, sprawling house in Better Living Subdivision in Parañaque. No day went by without the hordes of fans waiting outside, filling every available space in and around the house, including the surrounding streets. When she was inside, they waited for her to go out. When she was out, they waited for her to come home. These were the high points in the lives of the fans.

I forget now the chronology of Guy's many homes, but, I remember she also lived in Valencia st., San Juan, the main office now of Regal Films. There was a time Mother Lily Monteverde went to that house to see Guy because she wanted to get her for a movie. Guy made her wait for several hours. Mother Lily stewed inside and she vowed to herself, "Someday, I'm going to buy this house." A few years later, she did.

Memorable Christmases

It was in the Valencia mansion that Guy had some of her more memorable Christmases. Whenever the season came along, all the rooms would be filled with tons and tons of gifts and giveaways.

Guy shopped at night when the stores were already closed to the public. It was like shopping in fantasyland. She'd just point at things and say how many of them she wanted and they'd be wrapped for her. She paid for them with postdated checks. Sometimes, the checks had funds.

Guy had a favorite game when she was in Valencia. It must have been the precursor of "Pera O Bayong." One of the Superstar's many quirks was that she didn't want her friends to go home when she was still having a good time. Whenever a friend asked to go, she played a game. It went something like this:

Friend: Guy, I'm sorry but I have to go home already.

Guy: Two thousand pesos.

Friend: But, Guy, please understand. My boyfriend is waiting for me at home.

Guy: Three thousand pesos.

Friend: I have to wake up early tomorrow because I need to follow up something.

Guy: Five thousand pesos.

This would go on until such time that the friend relented. But before he was eventually allowed to go home, Guy made sure to give the amount she promised him in that I'm-Buying-a-Friend game.

Auditorium

Guy also has had a house in Sta. Elvira st., Bo. Capitolyo, Pasig, a stone's throw away from our ancestral home in Stella Maris st. There was an open-air auditorium fronting Guy's house where she celebrated her birthdays for the fans complete with singing contests, dance competitions and a sports festival which featured basketball, volleyball and lots of parlor games.

She and erstwhile husband Christopher de Leon lived in Cinco Hermanos, Marikina right after they were wed in that secluded beach in La Union. They later transferred to No. 10 Derby st. in White Plains where Guy previously had a house with Alona Alegre as neighbor.

I remember, it was in the Derby home where Guy and Boyet had their biggest fights. One time, a snake that must have come from the vacant lot beside the house sneaked into the infant Ian's room. Guy was out then. She came home to find everything in disarray. Boyet was furiously looking for the snake. He was furious at Guy, blaming her for not watching over their baby who could have been bitten by the snake.

Guy has had two houses at P. Guevarra, San Juan. I recall, the first one was all-white. Everything was white, including the carpets, the curtains, the piano and all the fixtures. There were accents here and there but they just underlined the white starkness of the interior design even more.

Pavilion

The second P. Guevarra home was so huge, it looked like a pavilion complete with an azotea, a swimming pool, and lots of function rooms downstairs and bedrooms upstairs.

Guy also resided at Tierra Pura in Tandang Sora, QC. It was here that movie scribes Billy Balbastro and Phillip Garcia had a fight. This was the battle of the old guards versus the young turks. Billy belonged to the group called the Troika which included Alfie Lorenzo and the now deceased Oskee Salazar. Meanwhile, Phillip was a member of the KKI (*Kakaning Itik*) writers which also included Ronald Carballo and the late Devi Jimenea.

I recall Guy also had a resthouse in Tagaytay. One time, she went there for a vacation with her usual coterie of *alalays* plus the staff and cast of the hugely successful movie "Annie Batungbakal."

To her consternation, Guy lost her wallet containing the then astronomical sum of P10,000 and her just released passport. (The travel ban—imposed on her by then First Lady Imelda Marcos because of a slight that I now forget what—had just been lifted then.) Guy asked her favorite *manghuhula* to go all the way from Manila to Tagaytay but the culprit was never found out.

Because of the incident, Guy decided not to buy the house anymore. She had paid earnest money for it but she opted not to push through with the purchase because she pronounced the house *malas*.

Mansion

Guy's most fabulous house was the mansion that occupied one big block in La Vista subdivision, QC. It was so huge that when Guy sold it, it was divided into two lots by the buyer who stayed in one but re-sold the other. Of all her homes, Guy loved this the most. In fact, she wanted to buy back this house but she couldn't anymore because the current owners refused to sell at any price.

The house came straight out of dreamland. The living room could be mistaken for the lobby of a hotel because of its sheer beauty and grandeur. It had a huge, majestic staircase with a big chandelier crowning it. The rooms were color coded—the red room, the blue room, the green room, the white room, etc. of course, all the appointments inside each room matched the designated color theme. Guy's bedroom was the lavender room and she had a big, round, lavender bed right in the middle of it.

The sprawling gardens had manicured lawns and a big swimming pool. This was where the spectacular parties were held. I remember there was a Christmas party when Guy and Victor Laurel emerged garbed and made up as Cleopatra and Mark Anthony. I don't know whose idea it was but the effect was a stunning as it was surreal, not really bizarre but very kitschy. The fans loved it. So did the movie press and the photographers. And "Lollipops and Roses" was a huge hit.

GUY'S/ p.C5

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1605 Jollibee Plaza
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3. The raffle will be held on November 7, 2001 at 1605 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1600 Metro Manila.

4. Winners will be drawn at the raffle in the presence of a BFAD representative for the following corresponding prizes:

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- **GRAND PRIZE** : 1 winner get a Kitchen Showcase (including 1 refrigerator, 1 range oven, 1 microwave oven, 1 blender, and 1 coffeemaker)

5. A winner's name picked more than once will qualify this same winner to the prize of higher value. Another name will be drawn for the discarded prize.

6. Winners will be notified by telegram or registered mail. Their names will also appear in a congratulatory or announcement ad in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Philippine Star and Manila Bulletin on November 19, 2001.

7. Winners may claim their respective prizes after the presentation of an identification material (office or school ID, driver's license, birth certificate, baptismal certificate, etc.) at Teope Commercial, Pasig City (see complete address above in item number 2). Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of sent telegrams or registered mails will be forfeited in favor of Teope Commercial, Philippine exclusive distributor of Sue Bee/Aunt Sue Honey, subject to the approval of the BFAD.

8. All employees of Teope Commercial (Philippine exclusive distributor of Sue Bee/Aunt Sue Honey), its suppliers, and its ad agency Masterminds Asia Communications, along with their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity/affinity, are disqualified from joining this promo.

* *Items shown are not the actual prizes.*

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TEOPE COMMERCIAL

DOH BFAD Permit No.0562 Series of 2001

Guy's house No. 32 is for sale

(From page C4)

Guy also lived twice in Rolling Hills, New Manila, QC and five times in Greenhills, San Juan. She also has had houses in such posh enclaves of the rich and famous as Dasmariñas Village, Green Meadows, Corinthian Gardens, Capitol Hills and Horseshoe Village, as well as in Murphy, Cubao, Scout Limbaga, Virra Condominium, Makati Gilmore Townhomes, San Juan, and God knows where else. She has real estate properties in Bicol.

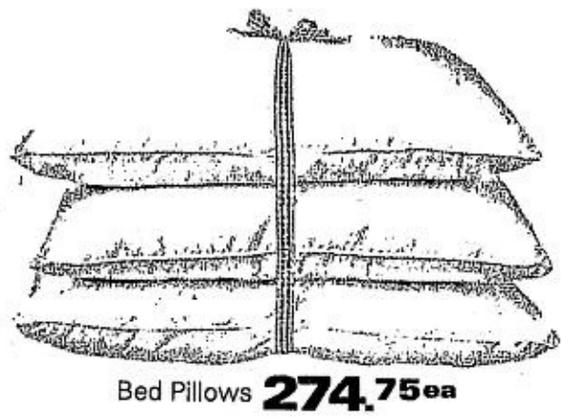
Train station

It is now part of the La Aunor legend that Guy used to peddle drinking water in the train station of Iriga, Camarines Norte. Perhaps, because of the utter destitution that characterized her childhood, Guy has a penchant for buying houses. After all, a house stands for permanence and stability—two things Guy never really had in her life.

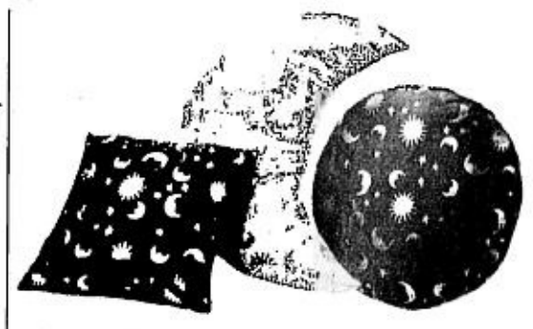
I recall, I asked her once what made her discard an old home and buy a new one. She wistfully if matter-of-factly replied. *"Kung minsan, basta alam ko lang na panahon na naman para magpalit ng bahay. Ang mga alaala kasi, parang multo yan. Eh, takot ako sa multo. Kung minsan naman, talagang hindi ko na kayang mag-*maintain *ng malaking bahay kaya obligadong lumipat sa mas maliit."* ("Sometimes, I just knew it's time to move on. Memories are like ghosts. I'm afraid of ghosts. There had also been times that I just couldn't maintain anymore a big house so I needed to transfer to a much smaller one.")

For the house at No. 81 Balete Drive, both reasons apply. The ghosts in this house are, indeed, plentiful. And they painfully haunt Guy. Also, this house is now too big and too expensive for the suddenly reduced circumstances of the country's one and only superstar.

(To be continued)



Bed Pillows 274.75ea



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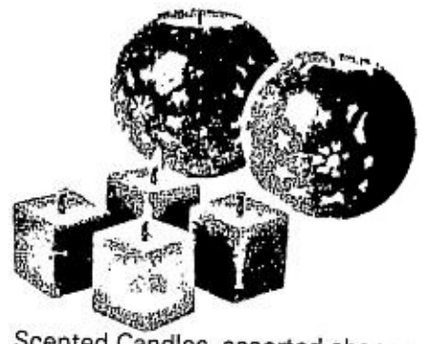

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Assunta De Rossi takes swimming lessons for 'Sisid'

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

WHEN sexy star Assunta De Rossi signed up with Seiko Films to do "Sisid," there was one slight problem. Assunta was going to play an aquabelle who does a striptease inside a big aquarium but she couldn't swim. Swimming is pretty hard to fake on screen. Doing cartwheels and other complicated stuff underwater is even harder.

So producer Robbie Tan enrolled her right away at the Celebrity Sports Plaza where she learned swimming and more complicated maneuvers for an entire month. Initially, the actress was scared of going to the deep side of the pool but eventually, she overcame her fears and was soon swimming like a mermaid.

Two-day shoot

The actual shoot took two days with Marissa Floirendo as cinematographer. Marissa is the one directors turn to for underwater shots. Director Joey Romero is himself an experienced scuba diver so everything went smoothly. Assunta impressed both Marissa and Joey with her ability to hold her breath for five minutes. It must be because she's got big lungs, according to Joey. More importantly, she was able to move gracefully for the camera despite the difficult conditions underwater.

Now, Assunta wants to take it a step further by learning scuba-diving. Unfortunately, her mother disapproved of her plan because of the perceived dangers of the underwater sport.

Although Assunta made her name by disrobing in "Red Diaries," she says "Sisid" has a compelling storyline that will make her adult viewers happy. She plays Lily, an aquabelle who performs for male patrons in a fictitious place called Club Boracay. Raymond Bagatsing is a photographer who falls in love with her but holds back because of her sad experiences with previous relationships. Rodel Velayo plays Fidel, a regular visitor at the club who thinks Lily is her long, lost girlfriend Rio, who jumped into the Pasig river after a bitter fight. Her body was never found so Fidel insists Lily is Rio. Assunta didn't want to tell us how the movie ends but we thought of Alfred Hitchcock's "Vertigo" where Kim Novak also played two characters.

Nude scenes

It goes without saying that Assunta will have several nude and bedroom scenes with Raymond and Rodel in the movie, which are even more daring than the ones she did in her first boldie. However, she still did not go beyond breast exposure, saying baring her private parts is out of the question.

DE ROSSI. Plays two characters in latest film.

"Red Diaries" did very well at the box office, something that Robbie foresaw when he signed up Assunta for his project. The producer, who is credited for discovering such stars as Gretchen Barretto, Klaudia Koronel and Rosanna Roces, felt Assunta had the 'X' factor that would make her a big star someday. When Seiko started filming "Sisid," "Red Diaries" was not yet showing, so the actress did not yet have a track record.

As Robbie figured, the audience would go for Assunta in a big way and hopefully, "Sisid" will benefit from Assunta's success in "Red Diaries." It helped, of course, that the PNP called attention to the movie by complaining about the portrayal of policemen in the third segment. Since the law enforcers do not play a big part in Robbie's project and aquabelles will probably not complain about how they are portrayed in the film, "Sisid" will have to make it on the basis of Assunta's performance, the script of Jerry Gracio and Rody Vera and Joey Romero's direction.

Celebrity status

Despite Assunta's new celebrity status, the actress doesn't feel any different. She does admit that people pay her more attention. "*Di na ako iniisnab*," she says. She's getting not just movie offers but commercial endorsements. Recently, she was in India for five days to shoot ads for Bench underwear. She got to see the Taj Mahal but said they were not allowed to shoot in the area. Instead, they went to Jodhpur in Northern India, where she said they could hear the sound of gunfire now and then because of the territorial conflict between India and Pakistan.

With her sexy image, one would think she would be as provocative as Rosanna Roces in her interviews. Assunta, however, is only 18-years old so her innocence is still very much intact. One writer tried asking her about sex, such as the sexiest movie she has viewed, the sexiest book she has read, etc. but she found it hard to answer his questions. That's probably why many men find her sexually attractive. She still does not have the sophistication displayed by other bold stars.

Discriminating audience

Robbie says the audience is now more discriminating in their choice of bold stars. There was a time when the producer would visit men's clubs to scout around for sexy women but lately he has stopped his visits because the moviegoers have changed.

With the economic crunch, they have less money to spend on entertainment and are more choosy now. They prefer stars like Assunta, who started out in wholesome roles.

They also want movies with interesting storylines. That's the reason Seiko has been tapping topnotch writers and directors like Joey Reyes, Don Escudero and Joey Romero to handle its latest productions.

As for Assunta's next projects, Regal has already lined up "Hubog" where she co-stars with her sister Alessandra. She still has two regular shows on GMAS-7—"Beh Buti Nga" and "Bubble Gang."

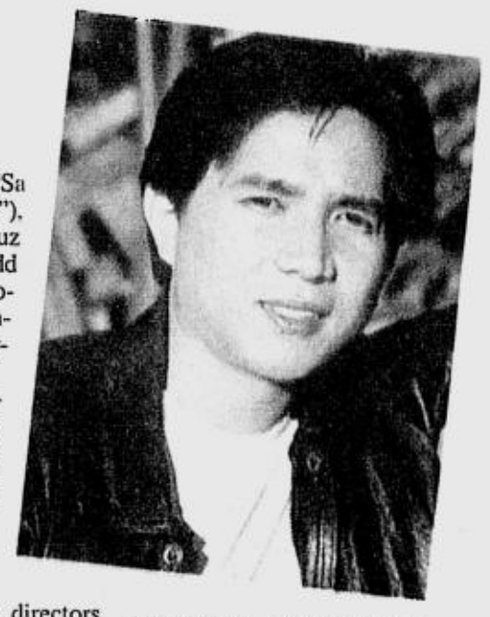
TWO FOR THE SHOW

Character actors shine in soap operas

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

SOMEHOW, we're happy about the proliferation of soap operas and drama series on television. Despite some overused concepts, cliché story lines, and mediocre performances from the so-called younger stars, we're glad that these programs serve as avenues to re-introduce and re-install our genuinely-gifted actors to the acting arena, more so, giving them employment during these hard times.

We are glad to see character actors like Spanky Manikan, Ramil Rodriguez, Dexter Doria ("Kirara"), Pen Medina, Caridad Sanchez ("Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka"), Chanda Romero ("Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin"), Ronaldo Valdez ("Munting Paraiso"), Dante Rivero, Pinky de Leon, Isabel Rivas ("Recuerdo de Amor"), Pilar Pilapil, Robert Arevalo ("Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan"), Eva Darren and Cris Daluz ("Pangako Sa 'Yo") who add luster and depth to the productions through their consistent and credible performances.



LEDESMA. Does his own stunts.

We're also glad to welcome back Sylvia La Torre, Nestor de Villa, Delia Razon and Celia Rodriguez on the boob tube, all of them doing great work for Channel 7's dramedy "Bagong Sibol."

We hope that writers, directors and producers for film also create interesting characters for these highly regarded actors who should continue to shine despite age and experience.

Diether feels overworked, but happy

Strike while the iron is hot seems to be Diether Ocampo's guiding principle at the moment. He's busy as a bee, but he's a jolly one nevertheless.

Ocampo is doing the rounds promoting his film with Rosanna Roces, "La Vida Rosa," shooting for the final sequences for his new film "Ano Bang Meron Ka?" taping for his early afternoon drama series "Recuerdo de Amor," doing "ASAP" every Sunday, and preparing for The Hunks concert in the States. Whew!

We caught up with Ocampo aboard WG&A's Superferry last weekend and although he was running a fever, he still looked forward to working with co-star Joyce Jimenez and director Maryo de los Reyes till the wee hours of the morning.

"If I cancel, it'll affect many people and our schedules and I don't want to be the cause of delay because I feel good doing this film," he said, adding that he hasn't been getting enough sleep for the past two weeks. "I'm not complaining but I am aware that all the money I earn will be useless if I get sick."

Ocampo told us that he's lost quite a few kilos and he plans to head back to the gym to get buff again, that is, after he's able to go back and sleep at least six hours a day. In the meantime, he gorges on food and takes supplements to keep his body ready for more action.

Rachel Alejandro's labor of love

"Rent" lead actress Rachel Alejandro has all the reasons to smile these days.

She's now fallen deeply in love with theater work, she can choose only the projects she likes, her personal relationships are getting stronger than ever, and she's produced a souvenir album that's sure to be the talk of the town soon.

The release of the CD "Love Conquers All" is timely, after the senseless tragedy created by terrorists in Mindanao, Manhattan and Washington. It's a "feel-good" album that features the world-class musical talents of Filipino artists, most of whom are part of the re-staging of Jonathan Larsen's "Rent," the musical.

"The songs speak of hope ahd love and healing," says Alejandro, flashing her molar-to-molar smile" and we've got some really good cuts in the album. For instance, there's a song called "Love Heals," written by Mr. Larson himself and interpreted by Bituin Escalante which is just outstanding. The cast also gave a two-thumbs up rendition of "We're All In This Together," and even Martin Nievera agreed to write and record a duet called "Love Conquers All."

We've heard the songs featured in the album and we say that it's a must-have CD.

Gary Valenciano gives a subtle performance

Gary Valenciano is pure energy when he performs fast, pop songs. But he sings better when he gives life to jazz and R&B tunes. For one thing, he doesn't move around too much and this allows the audience to focus on his voice and the meaning of his songs. The impact is stirring and more effective.

The smooth musical arrangement of Gerard Salonga for "Crossover Presents Gary" at the Captain's Bar in Mandarin Oriental fits Gary's voice. Gary's version of "Just Once," "Whatever We Imagine," "Moody's Mood," and "This Time" is laid-back, soulful and quiet. It's refreshing to see him perform without his usual fancy, dance movements.

He touches the crowd deeply with his melancholy and sad rendition of "Someone in the Dark" and "Send in the Clowns." These songs are tragic but he gives it a more painful, bittersweet quality.

Ronald Gan Ledesma risks his life for realism

Ronald Gan Ledesma is aboard a helicopter fighting thugs. He plummets from 30 feet above sea level in Calatagan, Batangas while he shoots his enemies. Without a harness attached to him Ronald took a risk of jumping off from the helicopter.

"I didn't commit any mistakes, otherwise we would have done the stunt again. I was afraid. I didn't want to jump but there was no turning back. I couldn't even shout while I was falling because the cameras were focused on me as I was falling into the water," Ronald explains.

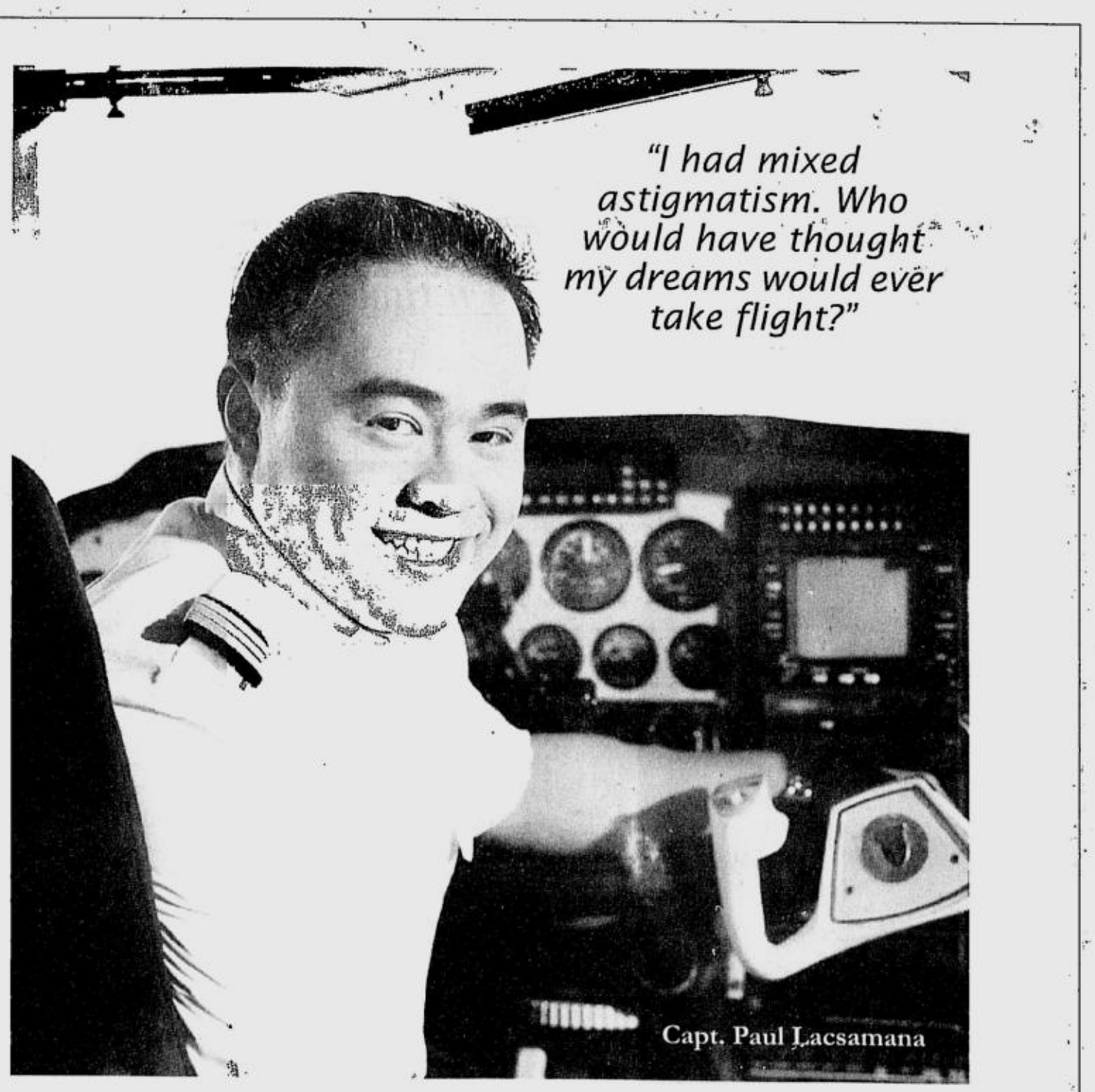
He refuses to use a double for his stunts because he doesn't want to fool his audience. He is confident that he has acquired the right skills to perfect his stunts. He constantly improves his flexibility and stamina by indulging in martial arts training.

He started learning karate and judo as a young boy because his father owns a martial arts gym. "At 7 years old, I learned martial arts. I also competed in tournaments," Ronald shares.

He downplays his achievements in the martial arts and refuses to disclose the number of gold, silver and bronze medals he owns.

He cites "Savage Justice" and "Basagan ng Mukha" as his memorable movies to date. "No I wasn't intimidated by my female co-star, Julia Montgomery in "Savage Justice." She played the villain and we fought using judo, arnis and karate. "Basagan Ng Mukha" is memorable because of the dangerous helicopter stunt I did."

Ronald looks up to Fernando Poe, Jr., Rudy Fernandez, Jackie Chan and Mel Gibson as action stars he wants to emulate.



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Cesar Montano and his bundle of joy (From page C1)

Cesar rejoins, "Yeah, everybody knows I have a very good relationship with GMA, especially with Butch Jimenez because I've done two of my best films with them, "Jose Rizal" and "Muro-ami." Butch would ask me then, but I couldn't say anything because I had an existing contract with ABS-CBN. And I haven't done something like this in a very long time. So that's one of the reasons why I agreed to do "Larawan."

If Cesar is excited about the project, the people behind the program feel the same and have nothing but praises for the actor. Cesar has been known to be meticulous in handling his projects, from story concepts, to casting and directing.

To some, this may be a little irritating but for the staff of "Larawan," this involvement shows an artist who's concerned about his craft. Didn't the actor demand anything before he accepted the offer? "None at all," Magno quickly replies. "In fact, he has been so cooperative. We did ask him if he had some preferences on guests or directors. He said he didn't. True enough, when we handed him the list of guests and directors, OK *naman sa kanya lahat.* However, he's quite particular with stories so he asked if we could meet and brainstorm, so we did."

Production meetings

During the production meetings, Magno would notice how open Cesar was to suggestions. He knew what he wanted so the sessions went very smoothly. "There were some ideas he rejected, though. We wanted to do one episode ala-'Tootsie' but he said the material was more suited for the big screen. He's quite right. He even mentioned we gave him another idea for a film," she recalls.

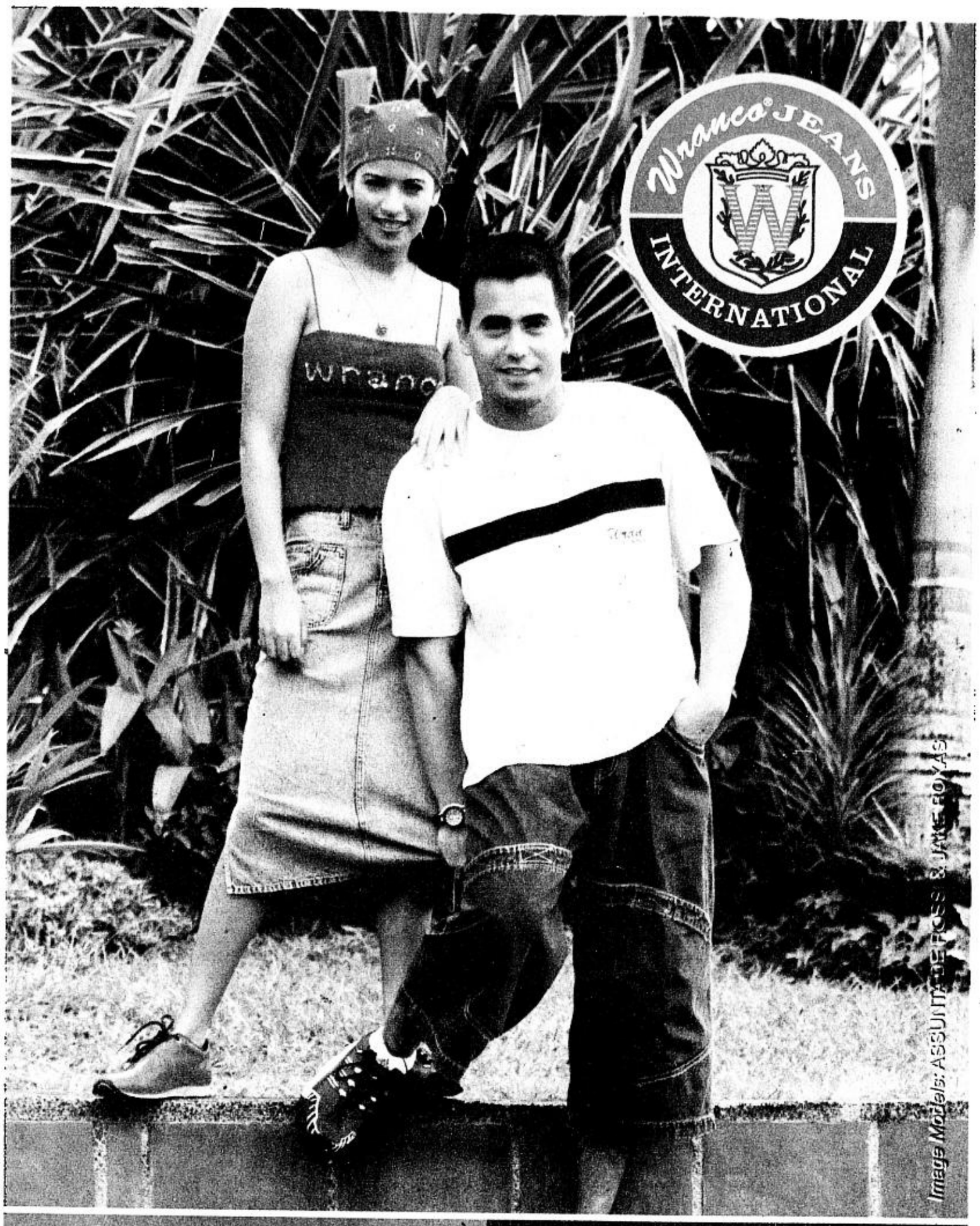
Stories that came out of these brainstorming sessions include a story about a radio commentator who falls in love with a mystery woman caller (to be played by actress Ara Mina), who eventually assumes dual personalities; an episode titled, "Selda," which is about a prisoner who takes life in prison very lightly so he clowns around, making other prisoners happy, who, unknown to many, led a very traumatic life himself; an episode in the action genre; and a love story.

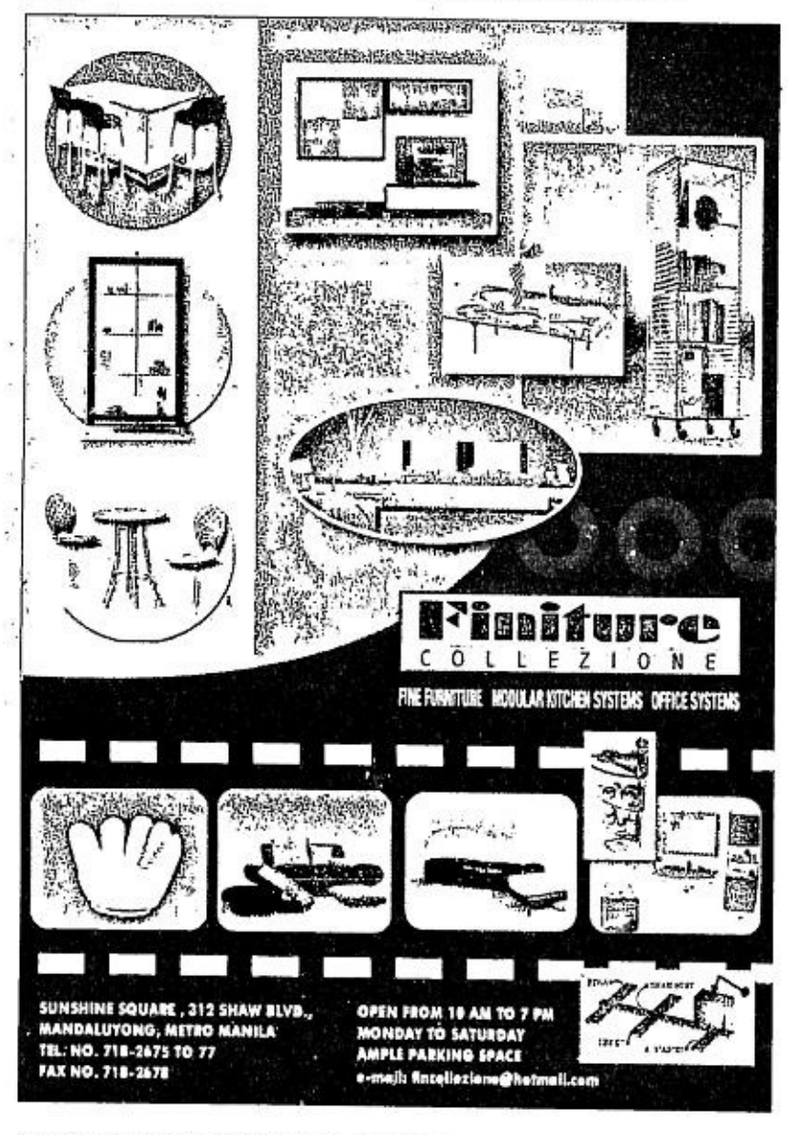
Feel-good episodes

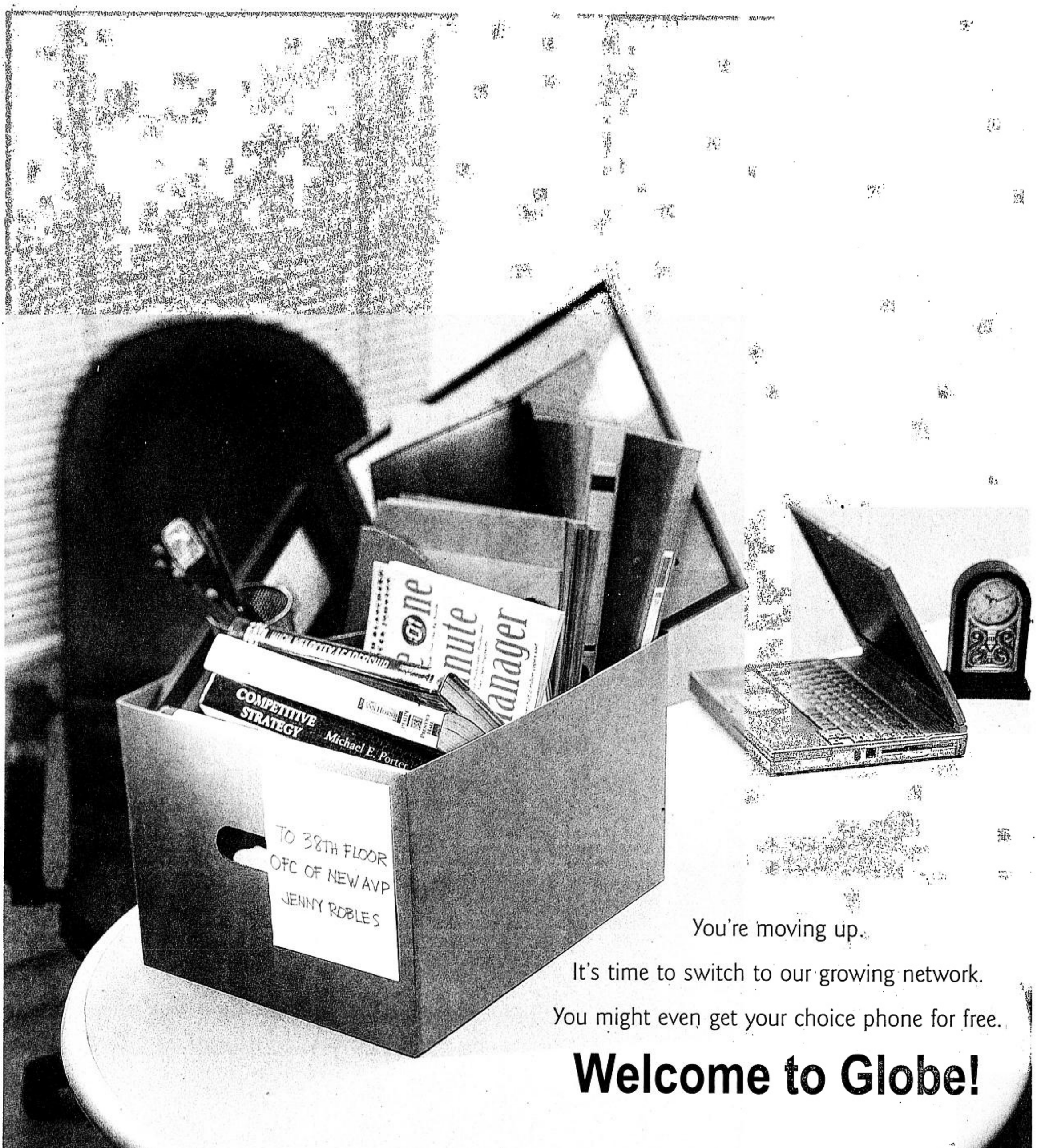
Cesar prefers light, feel-good episodes because according to him, times are hard and the last thing people need right now is to be burdened with heavy materials they watch on TV. But what really made him say yes? "I'm just an actor, and I'm being hired to act, share my talents. And GMA is one network I trust and respect. I've worked with them before and I'm more than willing to work with them now," he replies.

"*Yun nga lang*, we had to ask ABS-CBN's permission. For respect and ethical reasons *na rin, di ba*? Although technically, there were no problems because we have no existing contract with them anymore. But just the same, *nagpaalam kami sa kanila* and we told them we're more than willing to do another sitcom with them. And we will. Like we said, the taping will start in November. So everything went OK, *wala namang naging problema.*"

It seems Cesar has the best of both giant networks. Who else can be as blessed, at this worst of times? A brand-new baby, an upcoming sitcom, films in can, and a chance to go back to where he's used to be known for, as a TV drama actor. Lucky guy, indeed! "Larawan," premieres Oct. 3 on GMA-7.







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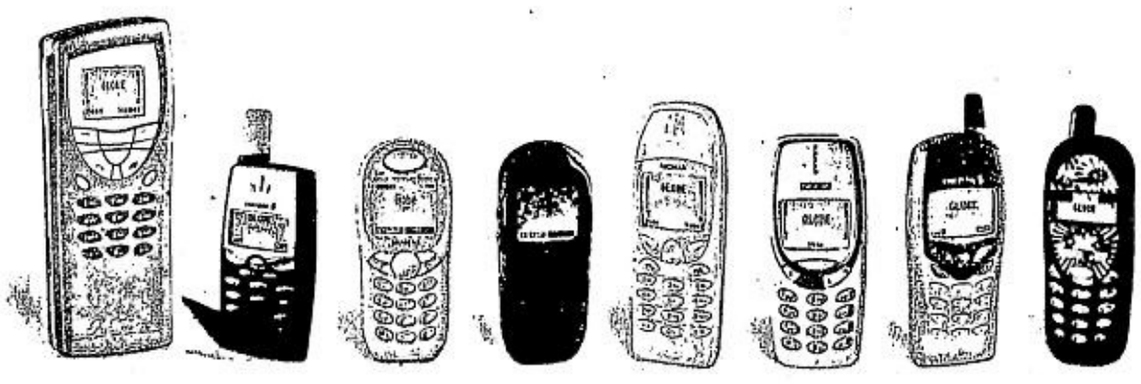

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Radio, MTV airing more soothing fare after assault

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

NEW YORK—Roberta Flack's pognant "Killing Me Softly" is usually considered mellow and endearing enough to merit countless replays on "lite" music stations.

But after the terrorist assault in New York and Washington, the title alone was enough to get it taken off the air at KISQ, an R&B radio station in San Francisco.

"I didn't want to play that for the first week," KISQ program director Michael Erickson said. "I just don't want to hear those words right now, and that's subjective for me."

Fine line

Those in the music industry are walking a fine line since the Sept. 11 attacks, trying to entertain while remaining sensitive to the pain still fresh across the nation.

STATIONS are playing Mariah Carey's "Hero."

Radio stations are playing patriotic tunes like "God Bless America," Ray Charles' "America" and Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA." MTV—better known these days for shows like "Jackass"—is airing more soothing fare, digging into its archives to play such inspiring songs as Bob Marley's "One Love," Mariah Carey's "Hero" and George Michael's "Freedom."

"I definitely get the sense that people are turning to music that's very meaningful to them from a spiritual standpoint, and maybe a political standpoint," said Arista Records president Antonio "L.A." Reid, whose label re-released Whitney Houston's version of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Patriotic tunes

Denver rock station KBPI is among the stations that have been playing Houston's song, besides other patriotic tunes, like Jimi Hendrix's version of the national anthem.

"We've gone out of format and played a Don Henley song called a 'New York Minute,'" said Bob Richards, the station's programming director.

RAY Charles' "America" is a favorite.

Greenwood's 1984 song "God Bless the USA," repopularized during the Gulf War, appears to be by far the biggest patriotic tune of the moment: Billboard's latest Top 100 shows it's become the 16th-most popular song in the country.

Other new songs have gotten a boost from the tragedy, such as New Age star Enya's "Only Time," according to Sean Ross of Airplay Monitor.

Inspirational songs

While poignant, inspirational songs may have gotten more airplay since the tragedy, others have

RADIO/p.D7

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AM/FM

An alternative to pop-driven drivel

We found the choice of songs refreshing and unpredictable, songs which seemed like they would burst into the Top Ten anytime soon

BY RITO P. ASILO

"No one knows what it's like to be the bad man, to be the sad one . . . to be hated. But my dreams are not as empty as my conscience seems to be . . . My love is vengeance, it's never free . . ."

WE were not really sure whose song this was, if it was Billy Joe's song from Greenday's 1992 "Kerplunkt" album, or from that Scandinavian metal band, Corporal Punishment, but whoever wrote the lyrics ought to write more.

This was what really made us stop changing stations on the FM band. The station, dwLA 105.9, offers an alternative programming that veers away from the usual pop-driven line-up.

Variety

We tuned in, on and off, between 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and discovered that LA features a variety of musical genres, including pop. But even their choice of pop songs is not what one usually hears from more popular radio stations.

Sure, you can still hear The Corr's "All the Love in the World," Jennifer Lopez's "I'm Real," (which was really not much different from "Play," "Let's Get Loud," or "Love Don't Cost A Thing"), or Destiny's Child's cover of "Emotions" (we would still pick Regine Velasquez's version anytime though), and other songs that were neither badly written nor produced but whose constant airplay *everywhere* made them sound like a mantra for the musically-stunted.

We heard cuts (like "Ang Buwan") from Asin's comeback album. It was such a treat to listen to Lolita Carbon's cerebral interpretation of socially themed lyrics. There was also Argentinian cha-cha; Pinoy alternative rock (the fun-filled duet "Lastiko"); the reggae-tinged "Pass the Douche;" folk-rock ("Beneath My Skin"); a Brazilian samba; Brian McKnight's "Love of My Life," from his latest "Superhero" album; another cover of Earth, Wind & Fire's "After the Love is Gone;" Madonna's latest cut ("Amazing") from her electronica-inspired album, "Music;" and another promising dance tune from Larusso that has the potential to follow the success of her international French-language hit, "Onnes S'aimeras Plus Jamais."

Unpredictable

This variety was probably what dwLA meant in their plugs that this was the station to "discover music." Admittedly, we found the choice of songs refreshing and unpredictable, even the unfamiliar pop songs which seemed like they would burst into the Top Ten anytime now, though the station didn't bother to introduce these songs and their singers.

But the different musical genre weren't the only ones that made dwLA's programming worth tuning in to. Another advertising blurb from its station ID described its choices as "unpredictable" and "uncompromising."

What added more unpredictability was the station's decision to put a potpourri of portions sprinkled in between the songs.

They had anti-piracy reminders ("You can actually buy new CDs anywhere these days at a much discounted price of P75. Don't be a *cheapo*!"). Guys, go to Quiapo, and you will find audio CDs worth P30 and VCDs worth P35! We wonder where people manufacture these by the bulk. Technically, owning four pirated copies is illegal, but the government seems helpless about this. They can't say they don't see these pirated copies everywhere, can they?

Trivia

Another segment was a trivia of sorts, but this one had a more serious tone. Question: "What country has the highest rape rate in the world?" Answer: South Africa. According to the country's 1996 census, it has a rape rate of 116 cases per 100,000 women. The only thing that is more staggering than this is the world statistic that a woman is raped every six minutes.

LOPEZ. On dwLA's varied play list.

They have the usual plugs: theater productions, like "Cactus Flower," the play which was eventually made into a film where a kooky, toothsome starlet debuted, and later won her first, and only, Oscar Award as Best Supporting Actress of 1969—Goldie Hawn!

The station called itself the country's "official paragliding station," and invited people to join these (literally!) on-the-air adventures in Baguio, Tagaytay, Subic or Angeles—or log on to www.skysports.ph if you are not afraid of heights. Ugh, maybe next time?

Travel advisories

Their travel advisories were even more inviting because of the short but precise descriptions of what people can expect from these tourist spots: a *banca* trip to Pagsanjan Falls, an hour and forty-five minutes from Manila, includes cushioned seats, life vests, two *banqueros*, 91-m high majestic falls and 40 minutes of your time alone with nature. But be careful of those fingers sticking out of the *bancas*, the rocks in the rapids might just crush those to bits! Or, you might be interested to visit Olanggo Island and its pristine, white beaches, and sanctuaries of rare, migratory birds.

Then, there's the jokes. Some of these jokes we already got, repeatedly, through text messages, and most of them were really corny. Like the one about balls—the usual office employee plays basketball, managers play tennis, while head honchos play golf. Conclusion: the higher you are in management, the smaller your balls are. Or, the old lady who wanted her portrait painted with diamonds and rubies she actually didn't have so that if and when she dies, her husband's next wife will go crazy looking for them.

Jury duty

Or, the man who wanted to be excused from jury duty, so he went up to the judge, told him that he was prejudiced against the man seated behind the defendant's table, that he felt that the man was guilty because of his bloodshot, beady eyes and sullen face. Then the judge ordered, "Get back on the bench, you fool, that's the defendant's lawyer!"

If you didn't like them, don't say we didn't warn you!

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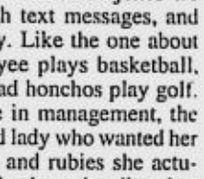


Sandy Daza

WHEN I still had my office in the Ortigas area, I would pass by this snack place that offered unusual kinds of sandwiches. These were not your usual hamburgers or hotdogs but gourmet sandwiches that I thought were well- conceptualized combinations . More intriguing was the fact that it had its own bread made especially for them. Being a sandwich fanatic, I would often have a snack at the small joint. I left that office and never heard from that shop again.

Larger outlet

As I was driving along Meralco ave. in Ortigas Center recently, I saw that this sandwich place had moved and now had a larger outlet. That only meant one thing: success. They must be doing something right, I thought.

I am constantly dieting so even if I have three sandwiches as long as I have them with whole wheat bread, seafood or skinless chicken, I don't feel guilt. Here are the ones I enjoy. Sandwiches here are made with a pair of huge slices of whole, Monroe or white bread. I love their combination of fillings. The ones I really go back for are the Slice Of Meat Special with Monroe bread. The bread is like a croissant but it comes in slices for sandwiches. (Sold in Jipan Bakery-excellent!) The fillings are Jamon Cocido, Swiss Cheese, apple slices (fruits and cheese are a great combination) and a delicious cheese and garlic dressing.

Imitation crab sticks

Another favorite is the Crab and Mango Salad sandwich. As the name says, the sandwich contains imitation crab sticks (fish with crab drippings), fresh mango, light mayonnaise on whole wheat bread. If you notice, the combination is similar to California Maki. I love it!

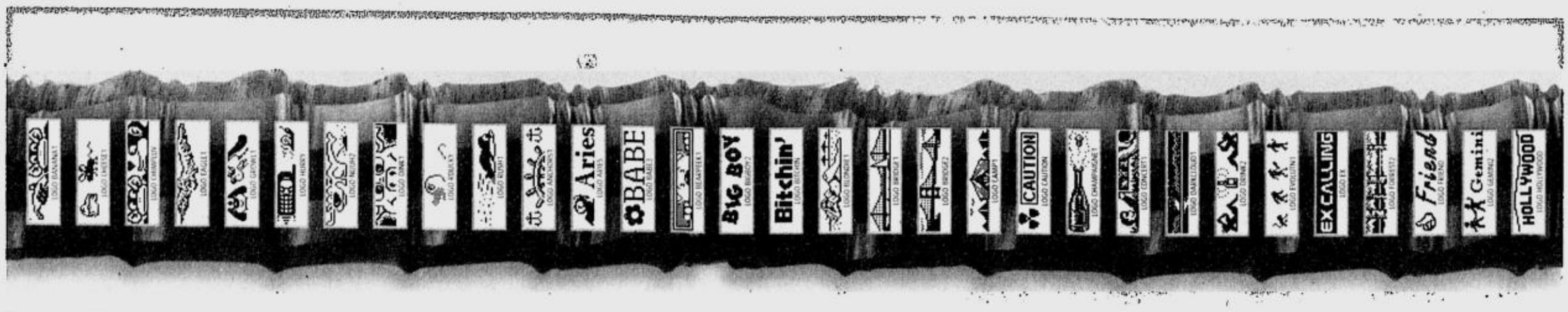
I also enjoy the Chicken Delight. This is chicken breast herbed mustard on whole wheat bread. There are many other interesting items on the menu—Philly Cheese steak, Italian sausage (you can't go wrong with this, almost half of it is pork fat), Pastrami, Bavarian franks, Reuben, Tuna and apple, Blue Submarine which is an assortment of cold cuts with blue cheese dressing on a submarine bun, Jamon Serrano Club, Cheese Pesto and a few others. They also serve meals, pastas and some salads. Some desserts are also worth a try.

Locations

The place used to be called A Slice Of Meat. Today, the name is Slices. Located along Meralco ave., it is at the Gold Park Plaza corner Dona Julia Vargas. Tel. 634-2182 or 634-2183. Slices has a branch in Makati at Cypress Garden 112 Herrera , Legaspi Village. Call893-7804, 894-4919 or 812-1604. They also deliver.

If you're into sandwiches, you'll enjoy this place. Happy eating!

Comments e mail me at: sandydaza@hotmail.com



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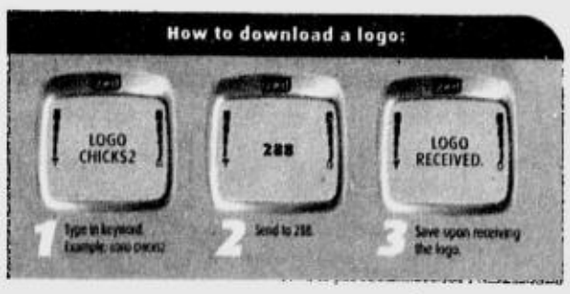


Martin Nievera makes audience feel at home

BY GLORIA P. SICAM

IT was as if we were welcomed into his house... if his house had over a thousand seats, really cool lights and fake entrances to nonexistent restrooms on either side of it. This guy's home is the stage. In this case, Onstage Greenbelt, where he's been having his concert series as it gets extended and extended. (Tonight is his last night). A place where all the seats are good, even if you're at the back of the theater.

Spontaneity

I'm talking about Martin Nievera, the guy who's a cross between Robin Williams and James Ingram. He has Williams' spontaneity and comic timing and Ingram's vocal power.. His ability to make fun of people in the audience without being insulting is fascinating to watch. There's no way that could have been written for him. He is the adlib king.

He'd ask people who'd stand up in the middle of the show... "Are you leaving already? The show does get better..." or "did you just get here? You've missed half the show!" He even followed one guy who mistakenly thought the fake restroom doors at the side of the stage were real doors to the bathroom and told him, "uh... sir.. the bathrooms are outside..."

NIEVERA. No fear of high notes.

> His ability to make fun of people in the audience without being insulting is fascinating to watch

Martin is the male version of Regine Velasquez. He just sings song after song after song without any fear whatsoever of the high notes to come. It's been a while since I heard Martin sing live. I've heard all of his albums... but to see and hear him live is an entirely different story. You tend to forget just how hard it is to sing the songs that he sings when you listen to the CD. You get so used to hearing the perfection of the CD you forget there's an actual person with actual talent singing there.

What I find amazing is how a song, when interpreted by Martin, gets completely transformed. He sang Aiza Seguerra's "Pagdating Ng Panahon", and it took me some time to recognize it. I thought it was one of his songs that I'd forgotten existed. Even popular songs which have the stamp of the original singers like "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" and "Sana Maulit Muli" became his own. I remember getting swept away by his version of "Beautiful Girl" but not having any particular liking for it before hearing him sing it:

Broadway medley

Martin's vocal prowess was wonderfully displayed in a medley of Broadway songs which he prefaced with a spiel that ended with "No pressure, but after this medley, I've always gotten a standing ovation." Which automatically makes you think, "Yeah right." But by the time you hear him tirelessly go through songs like "You'll Never Walk Alone" then "Climb Every Mountain" then "Somewhere," you just literally jump out of your seat to applaud him. When the audience asked for more, instead of relaxing with a nice, sweet song, he sang a medley of "Our Father" and "I Believe," both lung busters and he did it, effortlessly.

One of the best parts in the show for me was the "Let's-make-fun-of-Gary-V" segment. Because I watched Gary V at Onstage a couple of months ago do his own imitation of Martin, it was absolutely hilarious to see Martin's revenge. They've obviously watched each other perform very closely. They make very very funny yet surprisingly accurate imitations of each other.

Martin claims he hurts himself when he "does Gary V." He jokingly looks forward to the day Gary becomes a balladeer. I think the way these two stalwarts of the concert scene love copying each other is a great method of dismissing rumors of rivalry between them. This imitating each other is just begging to be made into another concert series. The audience is waiting!

Modified lyrics

It must also be noted that his version of "There's No Easy Way to Break Somebody's Heart," with changed lyrics to suit his situation was rather beautiful. Because of the simplicity of the presentation—just a keyboard—you got the pure honesty of his words.

Indeed, Martin is the Concert King. Even in plain jeans and a plain black shirt. No glitz, no glamour. Just the voice. And himself.

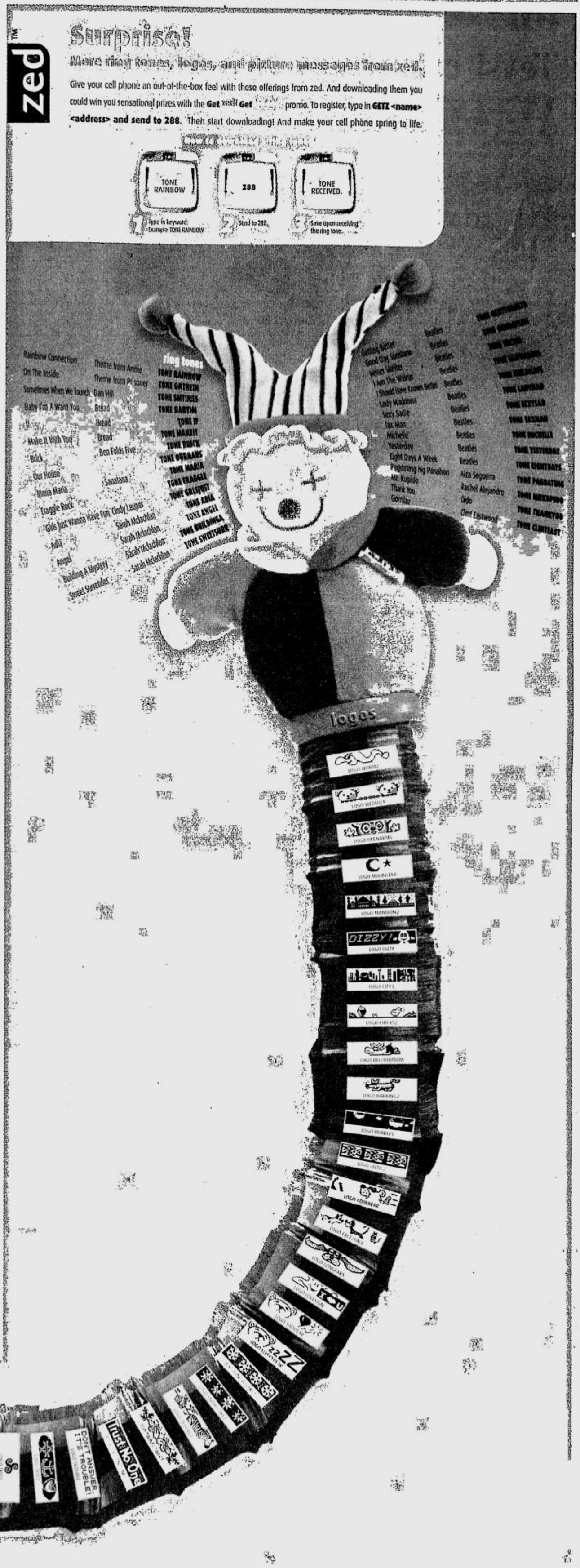
The Hunks at Metropolis Mall tomorrow

THE HUNKS, Diether Ocampo, Jericho Rosales, Piolo Pascual, Bernard Palanca and Carlos Agassi are on a roll! They are now on their way to the last of their three-leg mall series, Metropolis Mall-Alabang tomorrow Sept. 30 at 4 p.m.

The Hunks visited SM Fairview and SM Megamall with many fans awaiting their appearance. Both mall shows attracted a big audience.

The Hunks mall tour is a promo for the "Hunks in Concert" live recording album in CDs and cassettes under Star Records. The album contains 10 cuts lifted from their first major concert at the Music Museum last July 11. Some of the songs in the album are "Kahit Isang Saglit," "Katawan," "Angel," "Buttercup" and "Getting Hotter." The VCD of the "Hunks in Concert" will also be available soon.

The "Hunks in Concert" album is now available at music stores.



Teysi celebrates two decades of laughter

WE last saw her in a solo show in 1997, when she starred in "Tessie Tomas: Unclogged." Four years later, the First Lady of Stand-Up Comedy is back to celebrate two decades of laughter in "Teysi @ Tweynti.

Set for four nights at the Music Museum (Oct. 12 and 13, 26 and 27) at 9 p.m., "Teysi @ Tweynti" features Tessie with guests Jon Santos, John Lapus and Mr. Boy Abunda in a special role.

Finest moments

"Teysi @ Tweynti: will be the comedy show to beat, because Tessie promises to make it so. She will treat her audience to a sampling of her finest moments in comedy over the last 20 years. Watch out for her signature characters like Amanda Pineda (who's forecasting trouble again), Bonnie Buendia (who faces stiff competition from Ms Tika, the Starlet of the New Millennium) and Meldita, this time in a Christina Aguilera-inspired outfit and browsing through the day's headlines. One unique feature of the show will be a video wall through which Tessie will be interacting with her own characters!

We even get to meet two new additions to the family: Gloria Aray-Ko who sits down for a "private conversation" with Boy Abunda and a certain controversial Chinese Lady who's been topping the headlines lately. Who is she? Well, all Tessie will say is that she's a "budding celebrity!"

TOMAS. Four nights at the Music Museum.

Improvisations

Tessie also does some quick improvisations with special guest (and good friend) Jon Santos. This will be a "Woman to Woman" moment that will feature pairs like Krissie and Imee, Mama Bel and Puppa, Vilma and Nora, Sharon and KC, and Merriam and Mareng Wendy. Then follows a sketch based on "Dueling Network Divas" with Jon Santos and John Lapus. The three will portray newscasters from rival networks trying to outdo each other while delivering the news. Tessie will also be doing a portion inspired by her days as a radio talent, where she first learned to do various sound and voice effects.

"Teysi @ Tweynti" is directed by Floy Quintos, and written by Ricky Lopez and Joel Mercado. Hair and makeup is by Dennis Tan, wardrobe by Maxi Cinco, and photography by Raymund Isaac.

Four years on TV

After four long years in which she concentrated mostly on TV (starring in shows like "Teysi ng Tahanan," "Compañero y Compañera," "Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata" and "Feel at Home" which is being aired every Saturday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on ABS-CBN), Tessie is glad to be back doing stand-up comedy. It was, after all, stand-up comedy and characters like Amanda Pineda and Meldita that "made" Tessie who she is today.

"I've really missed doing stand-up, and I thought a show like this would be a good way to celebrate my 20th year in show biz," says Tessie. "It's my way of looking back at where I came from. It feels really good when you look back, and you realize *na ang dami mo na palang nagawa*." It is also Tessie's way of thanking all the people who've helped her, in any way, in her 20 years as a performing artist.

Call the Music Museum (721-0635 or 721-6726) or Artists House (815-1953, 817-4660 or 816-2496).

'Yours Truly, the Air Supply—Live in Manila!'

AIR SUPPLY. Love's many dimensions.

THE TANDEM of Graham Russell and Russell Hitchcock, more popularly known as the Air Supply, brings back to Manila their magical music in a one-night concert at the Araneta Coliseum billed as "Yours Truly, the Air Supply—Live in Manila!" on Oct. 2.

Undoubtedly, one of the hottest musical acts to hit the mid '70s, the Air Supply has never stopped singing love's many dimensions and touching hearts everywhere with songs like "Now and Forever," "All Out of Love," "Lost in Love," "Here I Am," "The One That You Love," "Making Love Out of Nothing At All," and "Sweet Dreams." These are just a few of the many hits the band has produced since 1975, when Australian-born Russell Hitchcock and UK native Graham Russell met while appearing together in an Australian production of "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Their first Australian single, "Love and Other Bruises," hit the No. 2 spot in the music charts in 1976, and their debut album turned gold in six weeks. The group has a new album, "Yours Truly, the Air Supply."

The album starts with "Who Am I," a meditation on losing one's identity in a relationship. Its symphonic string arrangements and intricate chorus demonstrate that the Air Supply remains as musically adventurous as ever. "Body Glove" is one of the album's surprises: a techno-flvored stomper with some of the most playfully erotic lyrics ever from Air Supply.

"Don't Throw Our Love Away" features exquisite choral harmonies and an arrangement that confirms Graham's gift for orchestration, while "Why Don't You Come Over" turns the tables on the typical love song, stressing connection and intimacy over seduction. Call 413-2572.

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Singer Michelle de Guzman is not your usual diva

BY ANDY BAIS

DE GUZMAN. No vocal calisthenics.

UPCOMING singer Michelle de Guzman is definitely not the usual stuff that our popu-lar local singers are made of. Her singing style is devoid of the vocal calisthenics of singers like Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha and Jaya. Her voice can be described as plain and simple—but these are the same qualities that endear her to her loyal followers whenever she performs. As one of her ardent admirers puts it, "it is the kind of voice that grows on you."

Michelle has been in the entertainment scene for quite some time but it is only now that she is getting the attention she really deserves.

Sing-along host

She started out as a sing-along host at BB Music Inn, a popular sing-a-long bar in Quezon City in the mid 80s which was managed by actor-comedian Bernardo Bernardo.

"Actually, I made it a habit to tag along with my aunt, Malou de Guzman, who was one of the regular hosts along with Bernardo Bernardo. When both of them got busy with their respective TV and film assignments, I was hired by the owners *dahil madaldal, bungisngis at marami na rin akong alam na kanta*," she explains.

She reveals that even at an early age, she really wanted to be a singer. That was why she really found time to balance her business management studies at La Salle Taft and her love for singing. "*Iba kasi yung* enjoy *ka na sa ginagawa mo, tapos kumikita ka pa*," she says.

To further hone her vocal talent, she joined singing and performing workshops under the supervision of Bernardo Bernardo. Sensing that she was ready to graduate from the confines of the sing-a-long circuit, she joined a show band that brought her to Abu Dhabi and Bahrain. Then, after spending more than a year with the band, she decided to embark on a solo singing career.

One incident that Michelle never forgets and which she considers as the main reason for going into singing, occurred when she was still doing her hosting chores in BB Music Inn.

Standards

"There was this customer who boldly told me that I will be more appreciated in my singing if I concentrate on singing standards. Naturally, *sabi ko ang bata-bata ko pa* for those types of songs *at saka di ko talaga gusto ang mga ganung kanta*. That *time kasi, uso ang mga* disco and pop songs like 'Eternal Flame,' at 'Miss You Like Crazy.' Little did I know *na kakainin ko pala ang mga sinabi ko*," she laughs.

Her "love affair" with standards started when offers came for her to sing in five-star hotels. She was forced to study the songs she once hated to sing. "*Siguro mga* more than a hundred standard songs *na ang alam ko*. And of course, I wouldn't have been that successful without the help of my pianist and mentor Nonoy Avila," she says.

When asked about her three most requested standard songs, she rattled off "Two for the Road," "The Very Thought of You," and "Moment to Moment."

Timeless songs

Michelle can be heard and seen singing your favorite timeless songs every Wednesday at 7 to 11 p.m. at the New World Hotel Lobby Lounge. "*Doon pa*-chanteuse effect *ako*, actually *parang* piped-in music *ang dating*," she quips.

Doesn't she miss her wacky self when she was still a sing-a-long host? "Not really, because I can be my old self *naman* when I perform every Friday from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at Surreala Cafe at Mother Ignacia st. Quezon City. *Doon naman* anything goes. The audience can jam with me and Ariel, our pianist," she adds.

Asked to comment on the hosting style of other sing-a-long bar hosts, Michelle says: *Di ko kaya yung ginagawa nila ngayon*. Yes, I am a happy person *pero di ko kayang sakyan yung* style *nila dahil* bordering *kasi* on the *bastos*. I can crack a joke but never at the expense of other people. *Iba talaga yung* style *nila* Alan K at Arnel Ignacio. *Nakakatawa sila* without being offensive."

In between her regular singing schedules, Michelle is also a much-sought after talent for corporate shows. She is also scheduled to perform at Chef and Brewer in Ortigas Center this October.

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Classics and jazz mix in David Benoit concert

BY JOCELYN VALLE3

SOMETHING visionary happened when contemporary jazz artist David Benoit visited the country for a concert three years ago. He met Italian conductor Ruggero Barbieri, who's been at the helm of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) since 1996.

Friendly expression

"We talked for 30 minutes," recalls the maestro during lunch at the Hyatt Regency Manila to officially announce Benoit's Oct. 6 engagement with the PPO at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. "And I liked the way he looked. He had a very friendly expression on his face. He's a great guy, a deep guy."

Barbieri makes it clear, though, that he's not a jazz fan. "I only had 40 minutes of listening to it," he shares, shaking his head. "But I like the concept of improvisation, of making music different each night."

That's what music fans should look forward to on Oct. 6, smiles Lito Pagayon, president and CEO of Admix, which represents in the country Rado of Switzerland, one of the concert's presenters, along with Crossover 105.1 and the CCP.

Different disciplines

Classical music and jazz are two totally different disciplines, explains Crossover 105.1's corporate communications manager, Robert Crespo, adding that the former follows a strict program while the latter encourages adlibbing.

No, the formula doesn't spell disaster. In this age of fusion, anything is possible. The results may not be pleasant at all times but at least there's the effort to experiment and challenge the conventions. After all, music (and art in general) is alive and dynamic.

For this reason, Pagayon, through Admix-sponsored concerts, has been trying to help Filipinos appreciate music. "I want to save people by bringing music into their lives," he says. "All you need is a 15 minutes of listening to music."

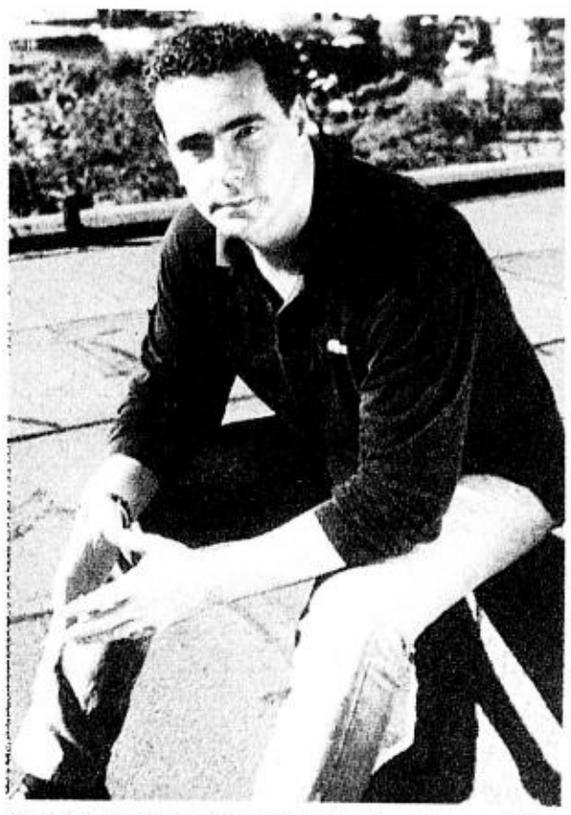
He has found an ally in Crespo. Crossover 105.1 has been vigorous in promoting music by putting on shows for talented singers like Martin Nievera, Jaya and Lani Misalucha, who recently had an SRO concert at the Araneta Coliseum.

Foreign artist

This is the first time the radio station is supporting a foreign artist. "But the orchestra is made up of local talents," points out Crespo, who's a self-confessed music lover. "I'm in the music business but the first thing that I do when I get home is to listen to music."

The CCP is widening its reach, too. "We want classical music to be appreciated by the general public," avers Johnny Villagomez, the marketing division services' officer-in-charge, believing that they can achieve it through a popular performer like Benoit.

BENOIT. Exposure to classical music.



BARBIERI. First time to work with a jazz artist.

And although it's going to be Maestro Barbieri's first time to work with a jazz artist, David Benoit has reasonable exposure in classical music. In fact, Oct. 6 is also the world premiere of "Kobe's" (Benoit's first full symphonic work) version in collaboration with classical composer and conductor, Maestro Kent Nagtabo.

"Kobe" is a symphony in six movements, featuring a traditional orchestra and three Japanese instruments: the *Odaiko* drum, *shakuhatchi* and *Koto*. Each movement represents a major milestone in protagonist Keiko Kjomra's life as she lived in Kobe, starting with the bombing of Hiroshima as she was celebrating her seventh birthday and closing her struggles and triumph during the 1995 Kobe earthquake.

Inspiration

And just like Benoit's well-loved tunes "Kei's Song" and "Dad's Room," the inspiration behind "Kobe" is provided by another family member, his mother-in-law who lost nearly everything she owned to the seismic devastation. (Kei is the name of David's Japanese wife.)

Aside from "Kobe," Benoit will, of course, perform his hits. Side A's vocalist Joey Generoso will be a guest artist in the concert so it's safe to expect the romantic songs "Take a Look Inside My Heart" and "The Key to You."

Pagayon would love to include two items in the repertoire. "A Filipino song and Benoit's 'Hymn for Ninoy,'" he offers. "I also hope that David will be able to jam with the maestro who also plays the piano."

It's way off the vision of both Benoit and Barbieri three years ago. But it can happen now.

Genet's 'Maids' in Indios Bravo

BY BEHN CERVANTES

I CAN'T recall now who first came up with the idea but I guess in the wee small hours of the morning after drinking four bottles of beer many schemes and things sound novel. So, soon after the idea was hatched concrete plans were laid by all involved. It was all systems go for the "happening" as Virgie Moreno, the doyenne of Indios Bravos was wont to call mini-cultural events held in the campiest café in Manila in the very early '70s.

Grooviest cafe

Before then the grooviest café in Malate was When It Is The Grey November in Your Soul owned and run by Ishmael Bernal. After he left for a film scholarship in India the place lost its center so his fun-loving friends and Grey's faithful customers moved over to Indios Bravos a mere two blocks away.

Their penchant for spontaneity quickly transformed the once staid café into the most exciting waterhole for artists and like souls in Manila. It was the place to go for a hippie atmosphere Pinoy style. Because everybody that was anybody went there, it came a place to be seen, as well.

It was a café that shook, rattled and rolled when customers put their mind to it. It was also the scene where senior artists enjoyed the company of the wannabes and the latter the patronage of the accomplished. It was a vibrant and truly exciting spot to be in...night after night after night.

Martial Law

This was just before the declaration of Martial Law. There were daily raucous rallies, big and many violent demonstrations in Plaza Miranda, Mendiola and in front of the US Embassy not too far away. Workers' leaders called for national strikes. Peasants decried centuries of oppression and demanded legitimate land reform. The urban poor wanted homes, jobs and the realization of the bill of rights. The youth decried colonial education and political oppression. Women demanded equal rights. Nuns, priests and seminarians were marching in the streets with the multi-sectoral activists and preaching the virtues of the Theology of Liberation.

The Writ of Habeas Corpus was about to be suspended. Nothing seemed secure. Why, there was even gossip that Martial Law would soon be declared. Things were indeed uncertain. Surely, this nightly partying, dancing and carousing were soon to end. At the very least, these free wheeling days were soon to drastically alter for who knows what. Many likened the giddy city to Berlin where decadence accelerated as World War loomed threateningly in the horizon.

Social limits

In like manner, many lovers of life in Manila decided to stretch social limits, have fun with gay abandon, savor new thrills and experiences before that inevitable time when things would have to change. Some were dangerous, cheap or even illegal, but that was part of the fun. Sometimes, these adventures didn't always work out, but who cared? Charge it all to experience. Hey, live, love and be happy for tomorrow...well, who knows?

Franklin Delano (wudja believe a name like?) Osorio was chosen, or did he volunteer to direct the show? I'm not sure now. The play was going to be Jean Genet's short but dramatically heavy one-act classic "The Maids." Joey Gosenfiao and Anton Juan were chosen (or, did they volunteer?) to portray the maids. Both are diminutive. Therefore, they looked good together as those maids. Besides, they both come from the North. Why that mattered I really don't know. Anyway, I was prodded (no, I didn't volunteer) to play their madam.

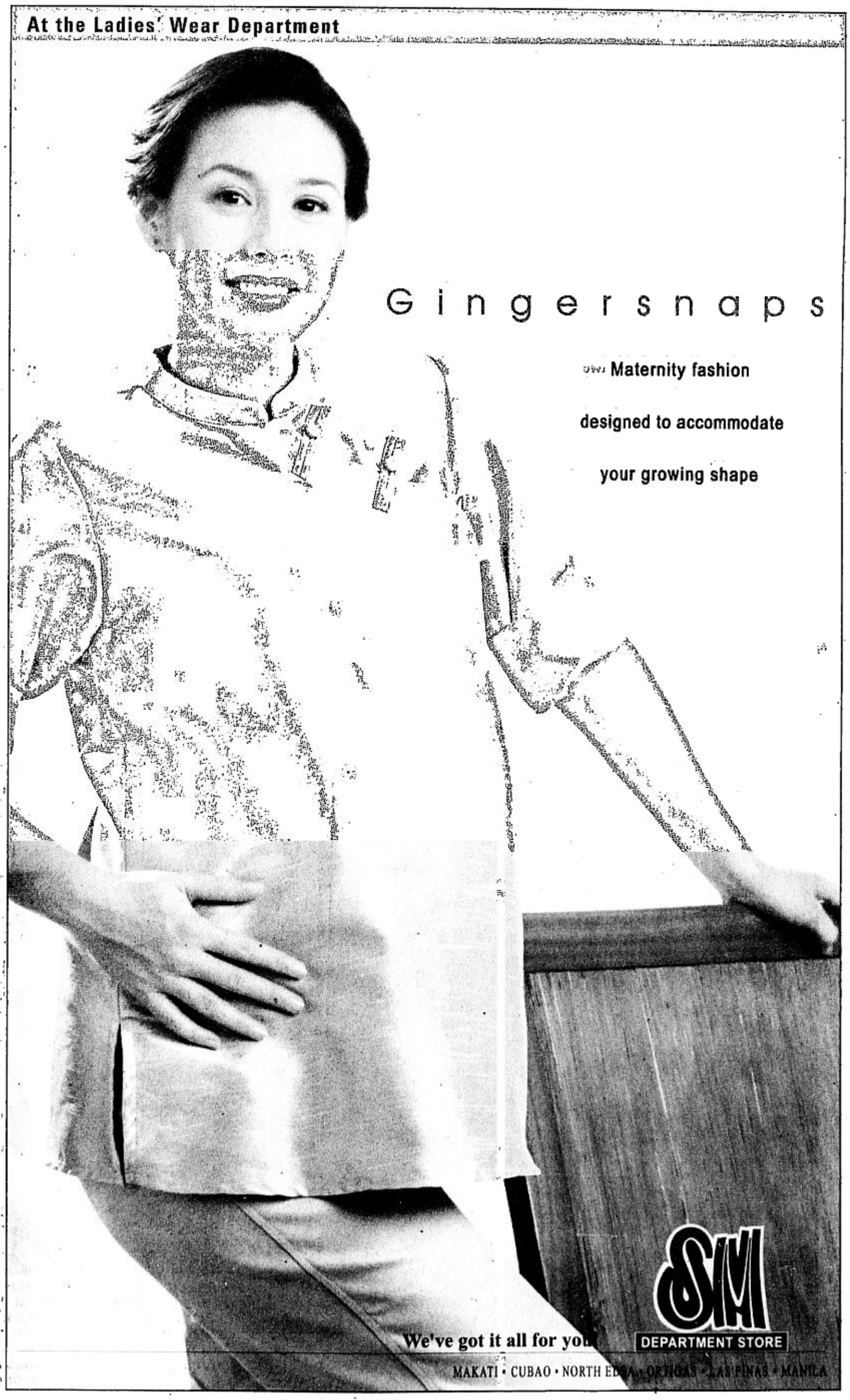
Papal Nuncio

This was going to be a crossed-dressed play. We wanted to think it was going to be a first in Manila. However, since a Papal Nuncio in the 1950's deemed tutus and tights indecent and, thus more or less banned ballet many schools like St. Paul's staged plays with only females in the cast. I remember being impressed with Zeneida Amador as King Arthur in Father Reuter's production of "Camelot." Her performance already merited her the generic term actor. Even before the Pacific War, that all-boys college Ateneo de Manila on then Dakota st. cast young men as beautiful Shakespearean women. It is said that the macho National Artist Lamberto V. Avellana had played Portia in "Merchant of Venice."

Dramatic swan

I am certain that Ateneo's illustrious history in classical theater before co-educational became the vogue many a young swain had to feign being a dramatic swan. We could hardy then claim to be staging the first cross-dressed play in the metropolis. No, not by a long shot! So, what was our claim to fame and why were we so excited with "The Maids?" Someone stated we could well claim to be the first crossed-dressed play "in the open." You figure out that cryptic statement. *(To be concluded)*

Someone stated we could well claim to be the first crossed-dressed play 'in the open.' You figure out that cryptic statement



YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM SEPT. 29 - OCT. 5

CH	27	37	7	2	9	5	23	29	11
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya on Da Pilot 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Vampires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *Lenny Kravits at the Baxton Academy/ U2: A Year In Pop* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's Best 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Unang Pinoy* 11:00 PGMA	6:00 Viva Premiere Night 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 10:00 Now Showing	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:30 MYX Sampler	3:00 O Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profiles 8:00 El True Hollywood Story *Gilligan's Island* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Ellen de Generes* 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Jimmy Smits* 12:00 El Coming Attractions
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Pinoy Exposed 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Business & Leisure	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eazy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Honeymoon* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bilay's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 Little Night of Music	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 It's A Miracle 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Ugnayan	4:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 The True El Hollywood Story 8:00 Totally Tube 9:00 Hollywood Unites 10:00 Primetime Emmy Nominees 10:30 El News Special *Americas Sweethearts* 11:00 60 Minutes
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camila 9:00 Home Along Da Riles 10:00 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Correspondents	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Speed	6:00 F 6:30 Mahiha Go Go Go 7:00 The Big Night 9:00 Life With Roger 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonballZ 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 10:15 Kiss Muna 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Becker 7:30 Arliss 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	6:30 Viva Proudly Presents 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Por Un Beso 10:00 Battle of Yokohama 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Beat UK 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Twilight Zone 12:00 P. Rock Prof.	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild On 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camila 9:00 Oka Tokat 10:00 Pwedeng-Pwede 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X	5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Best of Sydney Olympics 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Business Insights	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:45 Kasangga 11:00 Front Page 11:30 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 The Extremist 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Viva Action Cinema 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Por Un Beso 10:00 Dear Heart 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Later with Jools Holland 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Popular 8:30 The Others 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
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	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camila 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Lazenca 6:30 Resiol 7:00 By Request 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Pokemon 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:15 GMA Love Stories 11:00 Front Page	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 Por Un Beso 10:00 Battle of Yokohama 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:00 Halo-Halo 7:00 Batman 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Mortal Combat 9:30 Hidden Camera 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Nightman 12:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 10:30 Wild On 12:00 Talk Soup

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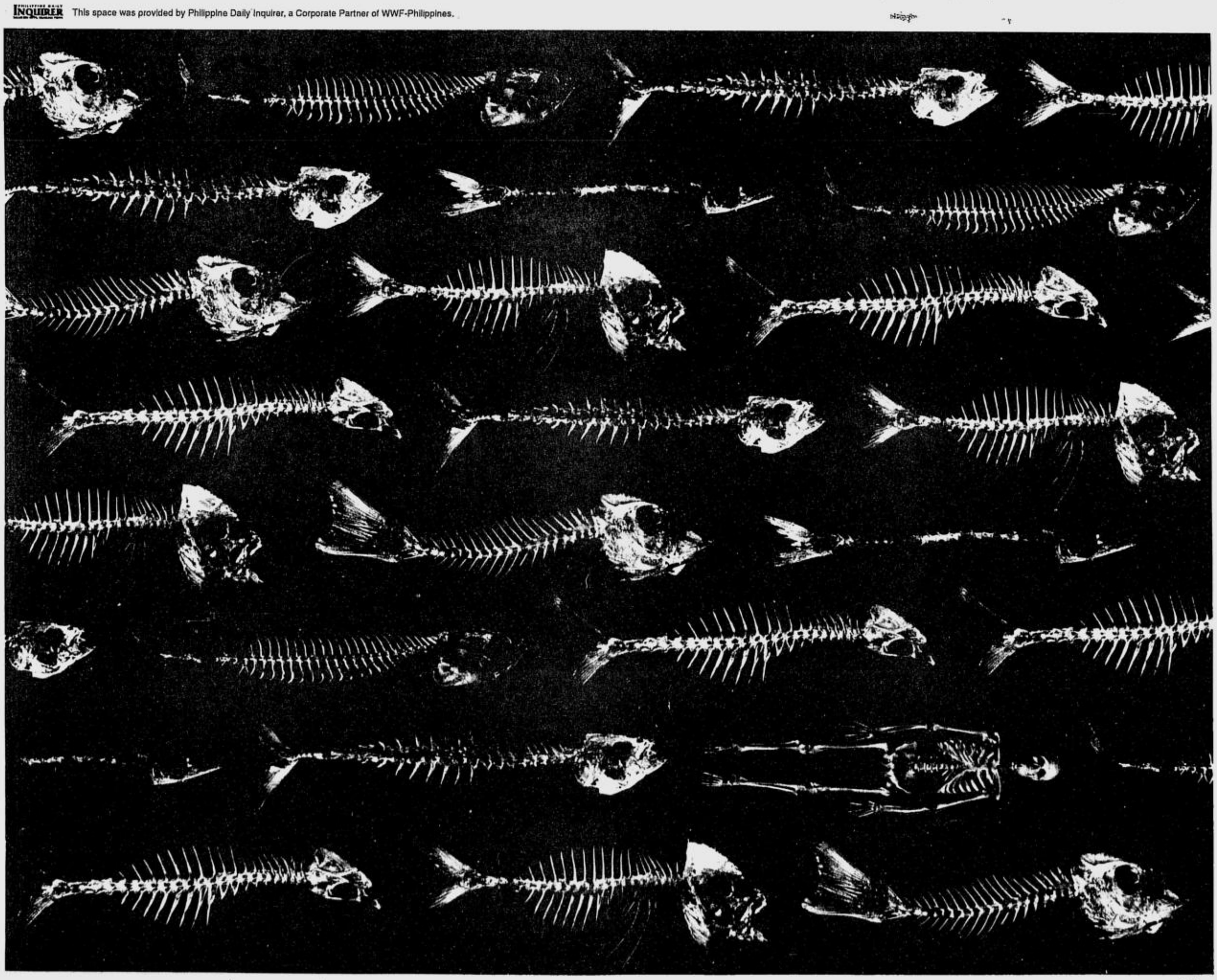

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Gem Castillo, Glaiza release debut albums

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

GEM Castillo, who was known for her sexy films in 1997 and 1998 (she made 16 movies in that period though most of them were minor roles), is back in show business with a self-titled album. The actress changed her career path after getting married to a Japanese businessman and giving birth to a baby girl, Alexandra, two years ago. She says her old image doesn't fit her new role as a mother so she decided to try singing.

Originals

The 24-year-old entertainer, who's still sexy after all these years, sings mostly original compositions from Vehnee Saturno. The carrier single is "May Iba Na Ba Sa Puso Mo?" which, according to her, is the number one OPM selection in several radio stations. Most of the songs like "Siya Ba'y Katulad Ko?" and "Nang Mawalay Ko" deal with heartbreaks and disappointments but she points out her own marriage is quite stable even if her husband is always busy with his business.

Gem is a college graduate with a Hotel and Restaurant Management degree from Lyceum. However, she was not able to practice what she learned in school because show business beckoned. She started out in German Moreno's "That's Entertainment" in the same batch as Rufa Mae Quinto.

She left yesterday for performances in Los Angeles and Phoenix, Arizona.

Meanwhile, teen singers continue to try their luck in the recording industry. The latest entry is 13-year-old Glaiza who has just released an album courtesy of Xax Music Entertainment, a new player in the music business.

Love interest

Glaiza is no stranger to show biz. She was last seen in the movie "Cool Dudes" where she played the love interest of Danilo Barrios. She also appears regularly on German Moreno's "Master Showman." She has also done several commercials for products like Jollibee and Zest.

CASTILLO. Change of image.

GLAIZA. Singing is her first love.

Singing, however, is her first love. At the official launching of her album, Glaiza sang a few cuts that Xax hopes will appeal to the many teenyboppers who enjoy music. Although some of the songs in the album speak of love, Glaiza says that she has not yet fallen in love. She admits, however, that she has crushes, quite natural for a growing teenager.

Glaiza says she was only nine when she joined a stage play in school and won a best actress award in the process. That award awakened her interest in acting as well as performing in public.

Aside from performing, Glaiza is interested in the sciences and wants to be an astronaut or pilot someday. Lofty dreams for one so young.

Radio, MTV airing more...

(From page D1)

gotten the boot.

At KISQ, Erickson re-evaluated his playlist immediately after the attacks-yanking songs that could be misconstrued, such as the Gap Band's 1982 dance hit "You Dropped A Bomb On Me."

Bad taste

"As we started to play the music, we're just more conscious about not playing anything that would be considered in bad taste," he said.

Richards, whose station is part of the nation's largest radio station group, Clear Channel, even drafted a list of songs that could be considered troublesome and shared it with other programmers. Clear Channel, which owns some 1,200 stations, confirms that one of its officials sent programmers a suggested list of songs to steer clear of.

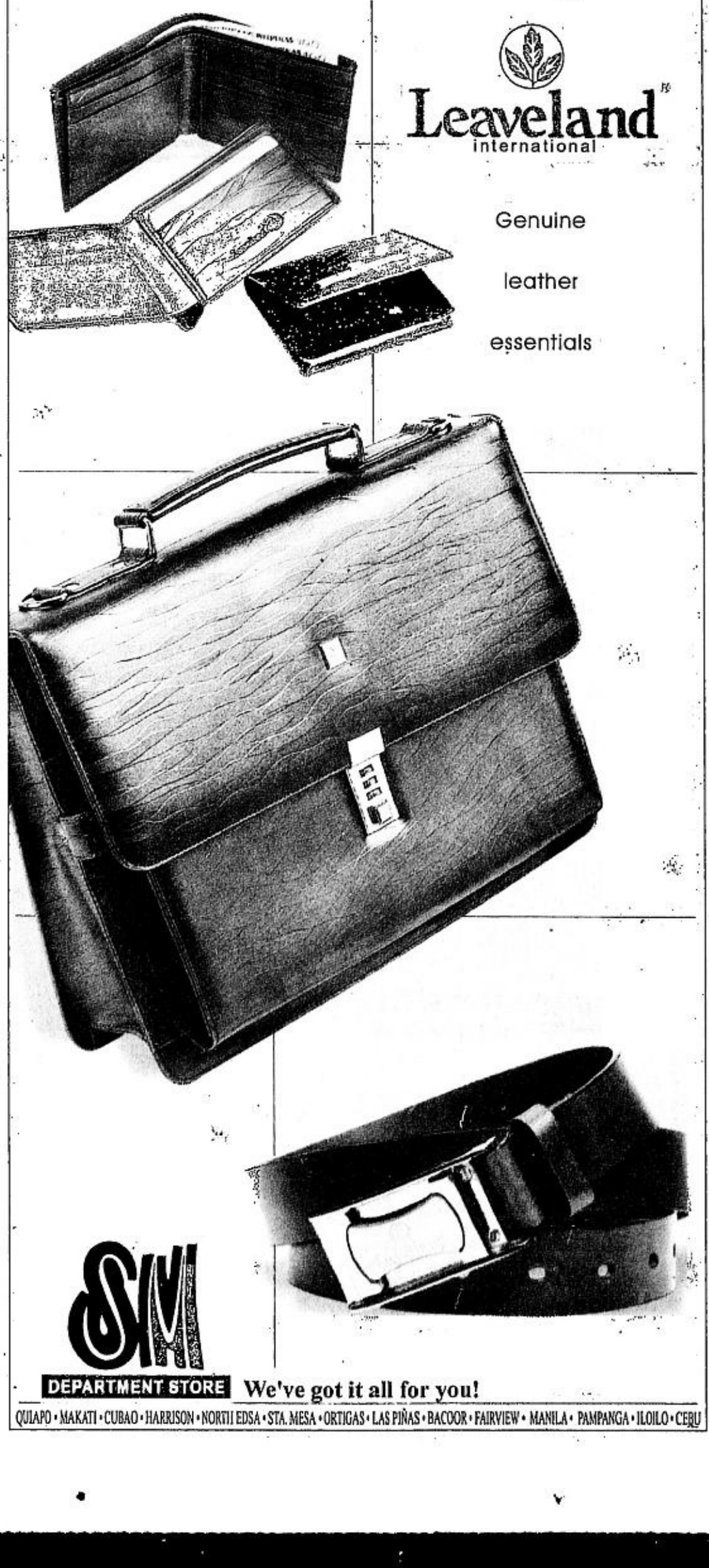
Richards and Erickson, whose station is also owned by Clear Channel, denied that certain songs were banned.

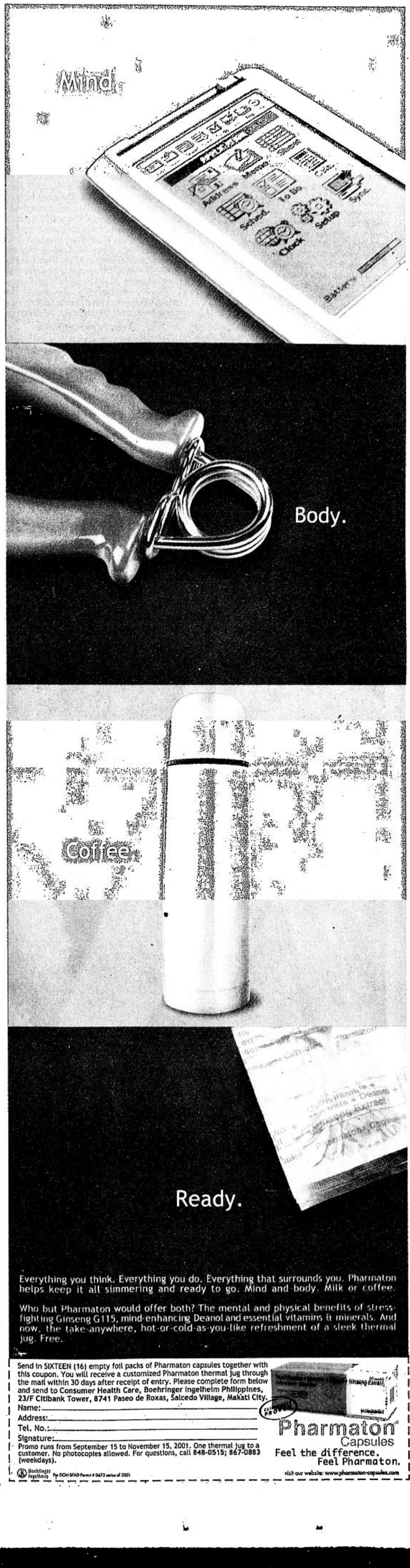
"It was a matter of good taste, and being sensitive to the needs of the audience," Erickson said.

No violence

MTV's Tom Calderone said his network was particularly sensitive not to show videos with violent or disturbing imagery, adding: "There's so many great songs that maybe haven't been heard in a while." *AP*

At the Men's Accessories Department





Janno Gibbs just keeps on giving

BY RICKY T. GALLARDO

WE have always admired Janno Gibbs's jaunty spirit, so light, so refreshingly buoyant specially in the rickety jamboree of show business. He remains one of the few celebrities we know who has truly appraised his sense of individuality and kept himself grounded no matter how much success he has raked in.

Free spirit

Fifteen years in the entertainment circuit is no small achievement, and it's definitely not a big joke either for Gibbs. Although he constantly echoes an image of fun and free-spiritedness which to some may translate to non-seriousness, but Gibbs certainly understands the responsibilities involved in his chosen profession and possesses the maturity and conscientiousness required to be able to pursue more vertiginuous levels.

"It wasn't always smooth-sailing," he says softly, almost whispering, referring to all his years as an entertainer. " In fact, there were many struggling periods, when I would question, doubt, get depressed and fall into stagnation." But Gibbs is not one who will just raise the white flag.

"Oh no, I don't easily give up," he stresses, "I don't think many are aware *na pala-isip akong tao,* specially with things that concern my career." He adds that he would, every so often, re-examine his moves, re-think his strategies, and re-evaluate his plans. *"Mahirap din kasi* I'm focused on many things."

Truly, the tree that feeds from genuine talent can bear countless fruits. Gibbs has done almost everything imaginable in his show biz universe: acting, singing, dancing, clowning, hosting, recording, getting entangled and untangling himself in controversies, name it and he's done it all.

He admits that during the peak of his teenage years as a member of the now immortalized "That's Entertainment" where his tandem with singer-comedian-actress Manily Reynes blossomed, Gibbs felt that he was spreading himself too thinly, doing so many things all at the same time.

"But I'm glad I was blessed with many chances to really delve into what I know I can do best and where I can truly be happiest," he says.

Whirlwind romance

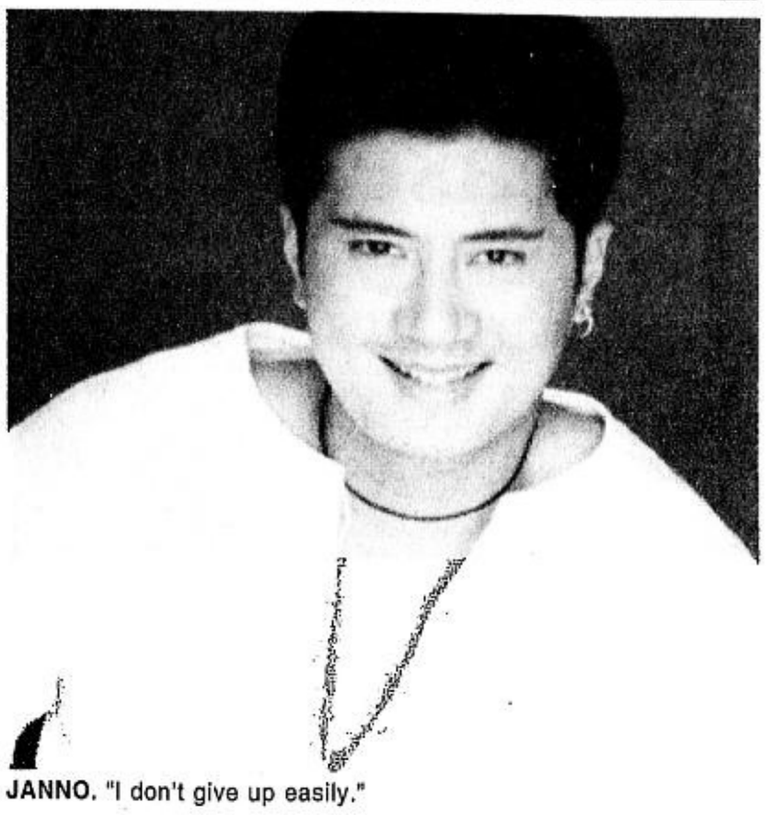
A whirlwind romance which ended in a premature marriage gave the popular loveteam its inevitable end, but this also gave Gibbs the springboard to take off on his own, at the same time, allowing him to learn the art of husband-hood and parenting.

Fatherhood

"Fatherhood taught me how to really prioritize and look at things in a different light. It also taught me to be selfless, to just give, give and give." He adds that he feels lucky to have a wife who understands his "job" and who chose to work behind him, considering that wife Bing Loyzaga-Gibbs (who now doubles as his manager) also was a show biz frontliner before.

At present, Gibbs continues to have fun in every project that comes his way. He is thrilled that he still gets the avennes to showcase his many insatiable artistic inclinations. Being part of the Channel 7 roster of talents has made Gibbs a constant fixture on the boob tube. His tandem with Anjo Yllana is getting funnier in the weekly "Beh Bote Nga." His singing and hosting skills are constantly polished regularly in "Eat Bulaga" and every Sunday in "SOP."

On making movies, Gibbs concedes that actors do not have as much power in dictating the kind of films they want to shoot and the roles they want to play—especially in comedy flicks, where his timing and tenacity seem to be so in tuned.



JANNO. "I don't give up easily."

"Sige na nga, aaminin ko na that on a few occasions I would pray that the movies I made would not make money because they were simply lousy. I was thinking that *kapag hindi kumita, hindi na sila gagawa ng ganun kababaw* and the producers and writers will try to uplift the kind of movies they're making. *Pero* a lot of times, *kumikita din, di ko nga maintindihan kung bakit!"* Gibbs makes a face to show his dismay.

We tell him that he'd be good in roles that can make people laugh and still get through their hearts at the same time, much like what Robin Williams and Tom Hanks have been doing. "I wish," is all Gibbs could utter, without any sarcasm, still sounding hopeful.

An album of duets

What excites him these days, though, is the birth of his new "baby,"—not the addition to his darling daughters Alyssa and Gabrielle, but his new "all duets" album titled "Divas & I."

Nowhere in any CD store can one get a local album that features 12 of the most-esteemed female singers in a collaborative musical undertaking that is both technically and vocally polished. And because Gibbs wanted his patrons to also have a visual feast while listening to his songs, he included a free VCD which has the music videos of the three tracks from the CD, released by Viva Records.

The concept may not be entirely new, but the vocally consistent Gibbs is the first to have successfully gathered these highly regarded singers to sing with him in one album. We have to single out the "sublimely irreverent" version of "Kapantay ay Langit" with Pilita Corrales, the George Harrison classic "Here Comes the Sun" where Janno's voice blended in perfect harmony with his sister Melissa, and the remake of Agot Isidro's one-hit wonder

> 'On a few occasions, I would pray that the movies I made would not make money because they were simply lousy'

"Everyday" where Janno's mellifluous vocal quality jived in perfect resonance with Rachel Alejandro's full, smooth timbre.

We were also amused to hear Butch Monserrat's sad but empowering classic song "I Don't Love You Anymore" (popularized by the great '70s show band Something Special) where Zsa Zsa Padilla was at her most restrained and restored accentuation. There are five Filipino tracks, and "Umagang Kay Ganda" and "Walang Hanggan," his duets with Verni Varga and Kuh Ledesma respectively, best exemplify what genuine *Pinoy* talent is all about.

Back-up vocalist

Gibbs shares that his firstborn Alyssa has put in some commendable work for this dream album as back-up vocalist for one of the cuts. Janno also did most of the vocal arrangements and coaching and was initially fidgety about having to "direct" his peers who are of bigger stature than he is.

"I was really restive and restless *kasi naman mga* 'the who' *ang mga ka*-duet *ko*, and the mere fact that they agreed to record with me is already a big honor, *tapos sasabihin mo sa* recording *na pwede bang ganito, ganon, ulitin natin to, ibahin natin yon, parang nakakailang hindi ba?"* he explains. But the naturally charming comic person that he is, Janno was able to pull through and the result is an album that will definitely become a prized possession in the future.

Many believe that Janno Gibbs deserves more career highs than what he is getting at the moment. Yet despite the occasional downs, like the recent storm in his domestic front, Gibbs says he has so much to be thankful for.

For someone who has endured and stayed afloat for a decade and a half is no mean feat, and Gibbs has learned to count—and share—his bountiful gifts and blessings. He has given so much of himself, his talents and his love and all he asks for are good health and more opportunities for him to give joy and real-value entertainment to his audience. *"Basta ako, bigay lang ng bigay hanggat meron tayong ilalabas. Mas masarap yon, eh!"*

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Julia Roberts plays an assistant in 'America's Sweethearts'

IS Julia Roberts still America's Sweetheart? Read on as Julia discusses her new film, "America's Sweethearts," a romantic comedy set against the backdrop of contemporary behind-the-scenes Hollywood.

In the film, for an awkward, self-conscious girl like Kiki (Roberts), being the personal assistant to a beautiful megastar like Gwen (Catherine Zeta-Jones) isn't easy. But when she dutifully accepts the task of helping Gwen and her estranged megastar husband Eddie (John Cusack) make it through one last public appearance masterminded by legendary press agent Lee Phillips (Billy Crystal), forever-devoted Kiki finds that her job is about to get even harder.

Biggest challenge

At first it seems her biggest challenge is to keep the peace between Eddie and Gwen and their public image intact, but soon Kiki is faced with a more personal concern as her longtime friendship with Eddie begins to take a romantic turn.

You actually turned down the role of the movie star, and you wanted to play the assistant.

I just liked her better as I read the script, and there was just something about her . . .

What caught your eye?

There was just something kooky about her and I thought, "Why is this seemingly same woman continuing to stay in this madness that's going on with these crazy people? They are all lunatics! What is she doing there?" So, I was trying to figure out the puzzle.

Two elements

Did you ever figure it out? Why does she stay in here?

I think there are two elements to it. I think that she truly believes that she has to take care of her sister who is this big star. Her sister is inept. She can do nothing for herself. And so, there's that element. But that sort of becomes twisted with time and I think that when you see her, she's made this physical transformation. In my mind, I thought that was kind of her first step in taking control of her life, and then you kind of see all the steps that take place in the movie, until ultimately she has shed her shackles and is free to live her own life.

Did it feel good having to be an assistant, having to fetch little things for Catherine Zeta-Jones?

Yes, I love fetching. One of my favorite things is to fetch or be fetching.

Fat suit

Tell me about the fat suit. How long did it take you to get into that thing?

Well, with all the prosthetics—it took about two-and-a-half hours, but I had the nicest guys doing it. They just hoped that my soap opera was on when we had to do it, because then I wouldn't be like, "How much longer is this going to be?" And then the wardrobe department built this fat suit that I would get in and zip up the back.

So did you get to explore that, walk around in it, feel what it was like, beforehand?

A little bit, I kind of startled some of my coworkers, which was fun. But once it's on, you're kind of counting the minutes until you can get it off. I worship Eddie Murphy. I don't know how he does it.

What was it like the first time you saw yourself in a fat suit?

It was a bigger fat suit. They had a bigger face for me, which I preferred. I had a chin that was like Omaha. It was huge, and I loved that chin, but [director] Joe Roth thought it was too comical. He wanted it to be more realistic, so they made it smaller, but I liked it being huge like that.

Bonding

Let me ask you about bonding with Catherine.

Okay, there was none.

None at all? That's amazing! You pull it off so well.

She's so angry. And that accent is fake. I'm serious. It's totally fake. She's from Kansas City. (Smiles) I love Catherine. No, we had good fun. She's a really sweet gal.

The bed scene with you and John Cusack. How great was that?

I think the whole thing is so hilarious, and yesterday somebody asked us, "Well now, you guys go from kissing to waking up, so did something actually happen? Or were you just tired and fell asleep?" And I was like, "Wow! Somebody needs to have some sex." We were kissing and then, ooh, we got sleepy.

Maybe they want to see that.

No, people don't want to see me having sex. My career is a testament to that very fact.

Why? Have you ever seen me have sex in a movie?

No. Does that mean you just won't go there?

Well, I'd like to say, I'm principled, I'm not going there, but you know what? Nobody asks me to.

I don't believe that.

I'm the queen of the "kiss, foreplay, dissolve." And then the, whoo! Good morning, tiger. (Laughs)

Nudity

Does that mean you won't do nudity?

No.

So, when do you see it necessary to do a nude scene?

When I'm home and just kind of partying.

"Ocean's 11," tell me real quick.

Fabulous. Fun. Very funny, talented, kooky, well-dressed, handsome men . . .and me.

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Oh yeah. We had such a good time. Steven Soderbergh—loved being with him again.

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MAYOR Lorenzo, with Burkhard Eicke and Gary Teves, inaugurates a "Tubig Para Sa Masa" project.

Mayor Sonia Lorenzo and historic San Isidro

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IT IS not Vigan, Ilocos Sur, that's for sure. There are no historic blocks and ancient structures to preserve even if there are remnants of vintage homes and buildings that come into view now and then.

Historic marker

But a historic marker in Filipino provides a wonderful surprise. It states that San Isidro had been decreed as the capital of Nueva Ecija province from 1852 to 1912. The first cry of the 1896 Philippine Revolution against the Spaniards was heeded here by General Llanera and in March 29, 1899, it was even made the capital of the Philippine Republic under President Emilio Aguinaldo.

The honorable Sonia Ramoso Lorenzo, wife of former Cong. Victorio Lorenzo, presides over this historic place and is determined to add some more history to her town. I attended the 105th celebration of "Araw ng Nueva Ecija" at the JF Sports Complex of San Isidro last Sept. 2, where she had Gov. Tomas Joson, Landbank president Gary Teves, and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as guests of honor.

On this day, Mayor Lorenzo, assisted by her Vice Mayor Cecilio de Guzman, inaugurated four unique projects.

"Tubig Para Sa Masa," the town's first water supply system, is a project with Wasser-KKM-Mai Phil-Germany, a build-transfer-lease contractor financed through the Landbank. She turned on a gushing flow of water with Wasser's Kurt K. Mantkowski and KKM's Burkhard Eicke.

Small enterprises

She also received P3.56 million from Landbank for the QUEDANCOR GMA-CARES-SRE projects for farmers, fishermen and small retail enterprises. In this program, vendors can borrow up to P20,000 without collateral. One of the results is "Bakery sa Bawa't Barangay." In this Sept. 2 townwide celebration held at the sports complex, each of the barangays prepared and catered the food served to the guests and the townsfolk themselves. They learned more than 70 recipes from Prof. Josefina Manuel, a retired educator.

The Department of Agrarian reform and Asian Development Bank have the DAR-ADB-ARCP-Luzon APO Rural Infrastructure Components which assure her of funding for her Poverty Alleviation Programs. They include farm-to-market roads and pre-fabricated housing. The first of the houses went to homeowner Celso Garcia and his family and Mayor Sonia made sure Chief Arnel Santiago of the PNP was on hand during the inauguration as she intends to provide housing for the PNP policemen in her town as well. She also supports the "Likod Bahay" projects, literally backyard activities consisting of hog and pig raising, fish culture, vegetable farming and herbal gardening.

Insurance coverage

There are more undertakings—"Kalusugan sa Barangay," "Dalub-Aralan ng Buhay" for the out-of-school youth, insurance coverage with PhilHealth for the previously uninsured, and crop insurance.

How does she manage all of these? A chemical engineer, she is also a trained businesswoman. Of her four children, a girl and three boys, there are US graduates and another is in the University of the Philippines. Thus, she runs the town professionally and like a business enterprise. Little does she know that she is making more history for her town. But it is the last thing on her busy, busy mind.

MAYOR Lorenzo with, from left, Councilor Emil Pacson, DILG officer Alice Bernardino, PNP chief Arnel Santiago, Celso Garcia, Vice Mayor Cecilio de Guzman and former Cong. Victor Lorenzo, launches her low-cost housing program.

THE MAYOR with, from left, Councilor Ding Lopez, Vice Mayor De Guzman and Councilor Pacson.

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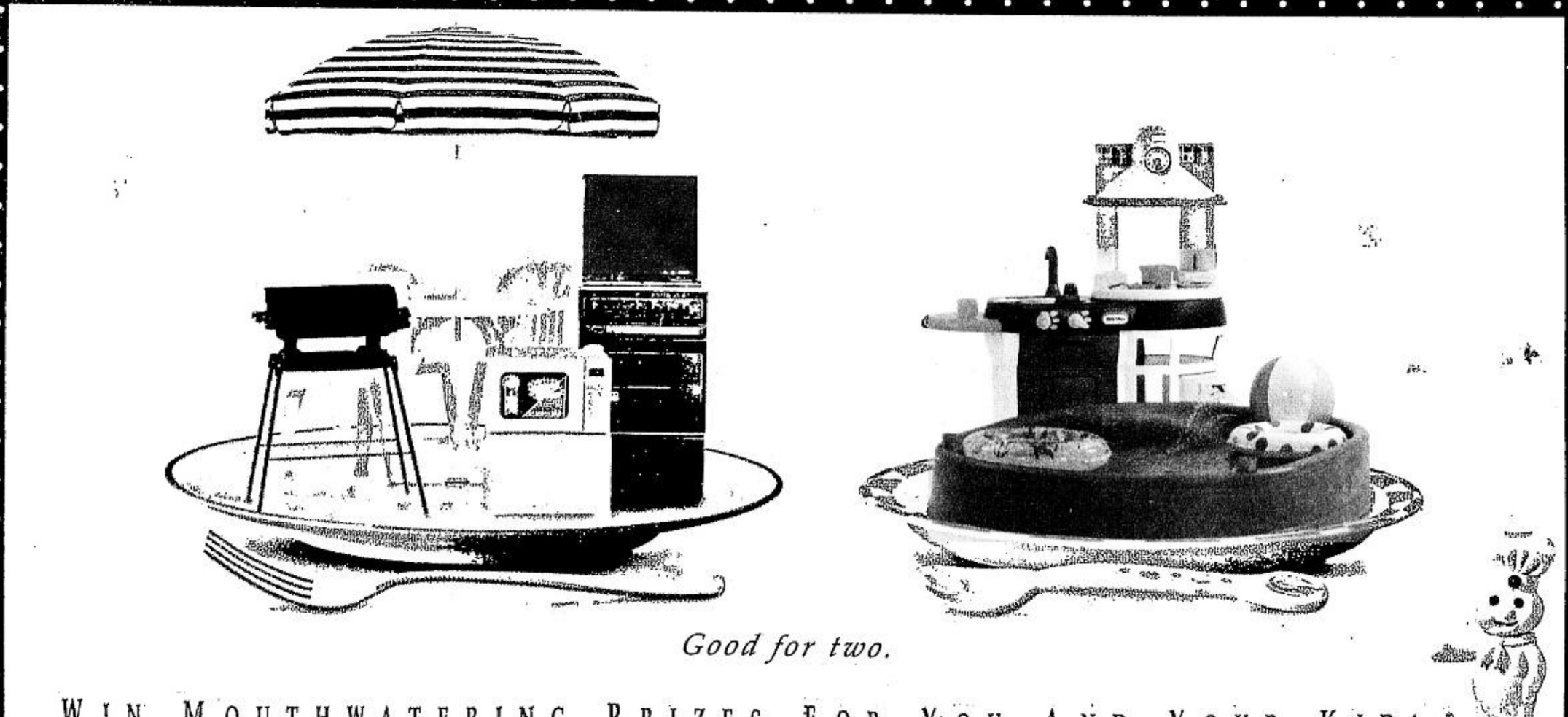

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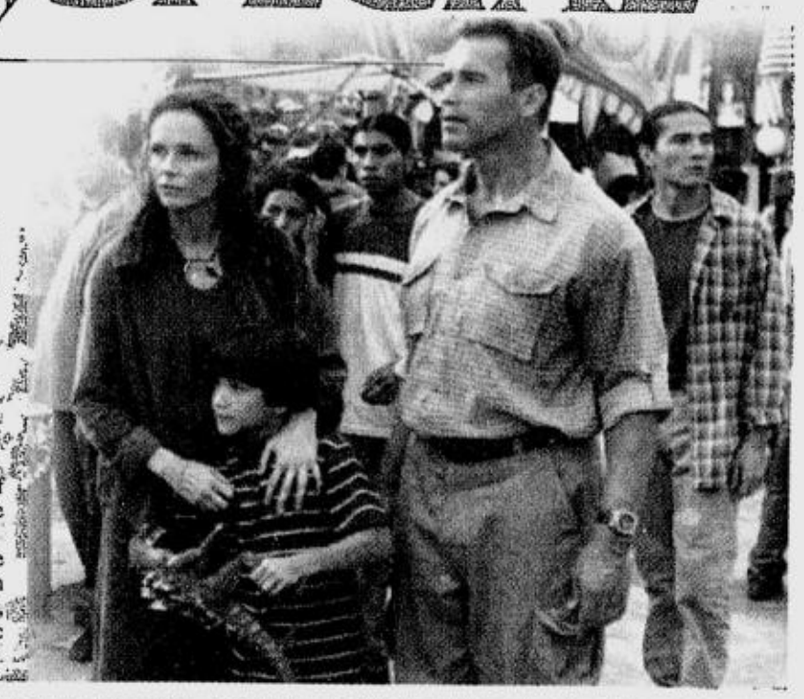
SaturdaySPECIAL

Hollywood rethinks its terrorism-oriented productions



"COLLATERAL DAMAGE." Too close for comfort.

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

THE RECENT real-life disaster in New York City has prompted Hollywood to effect changes in its own depiction of terrorist activities on the big screen.

The World Trade Center tragedy was so horrible that it is felt that viewers are in no mood to see similar scenes in the movies. So, a number of terrorism-oriented productions are being postponed, or revised to be more sensitive to the movie audience's new mind-set regarding carnage on film.

Biggest casualty

The biggest "casualty" along these lines is Arnold Schwarzenegger's new action starrer, "Collateral Damage," which has been put on the back burner. Its release date was supposed to be Oct. 5, and the production had already spent millions to publicize its opening, but it isn't sure now if the movie will even be seen on the big screen anytime this year.

The reason for this is the fact that the film's think tank appears to have pulled off the biggest "negative ESP" feat on the current film scene: not only is the movie about a car-bomb explosion, but it also casts Schwarzenegger in the role of a firefighter.

Since many firefighters died heroic deaths in New York City, it is feared that the movie would touch a raw nerve if it's shown anytime soon. True, the explosion in the film kills, not the firefighter but his wife and son, but the movie could still hit too close to home for comfort, or so its producers fear.

Twin towers

Another movie that is currently being re-thought is "Men in Black 2," because it has a scene set near the World Trade Center. It is felt in Hollywood that audiences don't want to be reminded of the twin towers that now no longer exist, so that scene may have to go.

Other positive victims of the current wave of fear, loathing and unwillingness to be reminded of tragedy include movies about terrorists in airplanes. One such movie is "Big Trouble," which revolves around an atomic bomb smuggled into a plane.

Naturally, the producers of these and other action-spy thriller movies hope that their films' showing will be postponed for only a few weeks or months, but nothing is definite on that score.

Another possible development could even be more disturbing: the decision to "demonize" Muslim characters on the big screen.

Villains

Time was when the Russians and communist Chinese were stereotyped as villains in Hollywood movies, but in the light of the terroristic acts recently attributed to Osama bin Laden and his suicide squads, it could be the Muslims' turn to play the dastardly foes of freedom in forthcoming action films or spy thrillers.

The hope is that more enlightened people in Hollywood will resist the temptation to make such negative generalizations to play up to some people's worst tendencies.

Finally, we trust that the new, more sober and sensitive mood in Hollywood will effect a major change that will affect the production and release of movies deemed too similar to the recent terroristic disaster in New York.

It would be even better if this will prompt Hollywood to re-think the entire issue of violence in cinema, with the view in mind of putting an end to its age-old practice of making violence exciting and pleasurable to moviegoers.

Of course, the movies must eventually tackle the issue of terrorism and what happened earlier this month in New York City, but they must do this thoughtfully, responsibly, and without adding fuel to the apocalyptic flames that threaten to engulf us all.

Boot camp turns actors into soldiers for HBO channel's 'Band of Brothers'

LONG before the first day on the set of "Band of Brothers," that's coming to the HBO channel across Asia this October, executive producers Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg and co-executive producer Tony To agreed that telling the story of Easy Company with historical accuracy and authenticity was of utmost importance.

LEAD star Damian Lews.

Military advisor

To that end, Capt. Dale Dye, USMC (ret.) joined the crew as the military advisor, responsible for turning actors into soldiers and helping directors "get it right" from a military point of view.

After a full career in the US Marines, including extensive combat experience in Vietnam and Beirut, Capt. Dye went to Hollywood. A lifelong military buff, Capt. Dye recognized what passes for combat on film is often what he calls "complete nonsense—a dishonor!"

He set out on a mission to change this state of affairs by offering his services to any director who would listen, eventually landing a job with Oliver Stone on the production of "Platoon"—the start of a second career.

Natural choice

Having worked with Spielberg on "Saving Private Ryan," Capt. Dye was a natural choice for "Band of Brothers." Describing his role as the "military guru" on set, Dye said his "important responsibility is to train these actors to be true successors, to do honor to the real men of Easy Company—to whom we owe a great deal in our world today—by portraying them correctly, with great honor and panache." In addition to his advisory role, Capt. Dye appeared onscreen as Col. Sink, commanding officer of the 506th Parachute Infantry regiment of 101st Airborne Division.

The actors endured a grueling two-week boot camp where they learned the basics, from how to wear uniform and stand at attention, to sophisticated field tactics and parachute jump training. The average day was 16 hours long, beginning at 5 a.m., rain or shine, with strenuous calisthenics and a three-to-five-mile run, followed by hours of tactical training, including weapons handling and jump preparation.

Night operations

The men ate twice a day if they hadn't upset Capt. Dye. There were night operations, foxhole digs and guard duty; they crawled through mud, slept on cold, wet ground, and had no showers. The highlight and culmination of boot camp was a trip to the Royal Air Force Base at Brize Norton, the training site for British paratroopers, where each actor jumped from the 40-foot jump tower and earned his wings.

The emphasis during boot camp was on living strictly in the 1940s. No modern language or modern slang was permitted, and the men were known by their character names. Real names, and real life, ceased to exist. This mindset carried over into production, where cast and crew alike referred to the men by character. By the end of the first week of training, the actors were "so isolated, so dependent upon each other, that just to survive they ceased to be themselves and became their characters."

Truth

Capt. Dye believes it essential to be hard on the actors in boot camp, because "no actor who hasn't walked a mile or two in a soldier's boots can adequately emotionally and psychologically portray a soldier. It's important to have some truth, for these men to be able to say, 'I remember what exhaustion is, because I was exhausted. I remember what it's like to take a bead on a person and pull the trigger, because I did that. I understand what it's like to slide in the mud and be absolutely filthy and stink like a goat, because I've been there.' That was the life those men lived in World War II, and if our actors live it, they can only tell the truth."

An important part of the day was "stand down," usually after the evening meal, where the actors had a no-holds-barred opportunity to ask anything. Questions like "What's it feel like to have a morphine injection?" "What does shrapnel look like?" and "What's it like when a buddy right next to you gets killed?" were instrumental to the actors' understanding of combat life.

Right answer

When Capt. Dye asked the actors what they thought about the last question, they expressed the expected anguish, sadness and numbness. Capt. Dye's response: "There's only one right answer: You feel elation, you feel joy because it wasn't you.

And that momentary elation is what causes survivor's guilt—you're happy your buddy caught the bullet, not you, even if he was your best buddy. It's that kind of insight that truly helps the men move into the combat aspect of this thing, and that's what shows up on the screen."

Metamorphosis

By the end of boot camp, the actors had gone through an extraordinary metamorphosis. Dye says, they "understood about tenacity, hardship, discipline and pushing themselves to do more than they ever thought could do. They took pride in themselves, and began to realize what ordinary men are capable of. They lost their fear of weapons and uniforms. They understood what it's like to live together in a brotherhood, and they truly became brothers."

FOCUS ON ASIAN FILMS

New and experienced directors' works showcased in Fukuoka

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

MORE Asian directors are being honored by the 2001 Fukuoka International Film Festival with screenings of their new films. From Korea, Bong Joon-Ho screens his first feature film, "Barking Dogs Never Bite." It's about a man who hates dogs but is forced to take care of the dog that his wife has bought.

Edgy comedy

Before making this edgy comedy, the Korean filmmaker made a short film, "Incoherence," that was invited for screening by the San Diego and Hong Kong filmfests.

From Japan, Kazuyoshi Kumakiri directs "Hole in the Sky," about the hesitant love that grows between an emotionally-battered young woman and an introverted young man.

Kumakiri studied at Osaka Art University, and his graduation production, "Kichiku," won the second grand prize at the 1997 PIA Film Festival. Four years later, his new movie "Hole in the Sky," has similarly created a stir in film circles.

Rotterdam filmfest

It was officially invited to the Competition Division of the filmfest at Rotterdam, where it won the FIPRESCI award for Special Mention. And it also made it to the Young Forum Division of the 51st Berlin International Film Festival.

Another Japanese director, Ryosuke Hashiguchi, has a new film showing at the Fukuoka filmfest. "Hush!" is about the many-layered relationship between a woman and two gay men.

In 1989, Hashiguchi's "The Secret of Last Night" won the Grand Prix of the PFF Awards. "A Touch of Fever" (1992) played at a number of international filmfests. And "Like Grains of Sand" (1996) won the Grand Prix at the Rotterdam *and* Dunkirk festivals.

Short films

Iranian filmmaker Bahman Ghobadi first made short films during his student days. One of them, "Life in Fog" (1999) won the Special Jury Prize at the Clermont-Ferrand filmfest. This year, that movie has been expanded by Ghobadi into his Fukuoka entry, "A Time for Drunken Horses," his first feature film.

The movie is about poor siblings who are forced to do unusual things in order to pay for the operation of their handicapped brother. Ghobadi's handling of the movie was so striking that he was cited as best new director at the 53rd Cannes filmfest.

Much more experienced is another Iranian director, Majid Majidi, who started his film career as an actor, but quickly shifted to working behind the camera with "Baduk" (1991).

Grand Prix

After making "Father" in 1996, Majidi's third feature, "Children of Heaven" (1997) won the Grand Prix at the Montreal filmfest.

NEW/P. F3

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New and experienced directors' works showcased in Fukuoka (From page F2)

Two years later, Majidi duplicated the feat at the same festival with "Color of Paradise." And his new film, "Baran," has again topped this year's Montreal filmfest.

"Children of Heaven" was also nominated for the foreign film section of the 71st Oscar awards, and is credited with helping Iranian movies become the current toast of the filmmaking world.

The reaction at Fukuoka to Majidi's "Baran" has been exceptional, but Majidi was not able to fly to Japan from Montreal because of the recent tragedy in New York City, which has affected airline schedules in Canada, as well. However, he was proudly represented by his wife and children. He finally arrived in Fukuoka last Sept. 18.

Films for children

Even more experienced is Iranian Ebrahim

Fourouzesh, who made 70 films for children before he made his first feature, "Key," in 1987. The film was written and edited by Abbas Kiarostami, regarded as *the* master of Iranian motion pictures.

Fourrouzesh's second film, "The Jar" won the Grand Prix at the Locarno filmfest in 1994. "The Little Man" was produced in 1998, and Fourrouzesh's new film, "Oil Children," has been enthusiastically received at Fukuoka's Focus on Asia festival.

Cinemanila International . . . (From page F4)

Opening night

The opening night is on Dec. 6 while the official screening of the films will begin on Dec. 7. The first screening is at 2 p.m. and the last at 10 p.m.

At least five films will be screened per theater and a total of 20 films per day. The arrangement of the films will depend on the film's classification and total running time.

This schedule will be followed within the nine-day screening period.

A total of 15 international guests will be invited to the event. Seven world-renowned film personalities will comprise the jury of the festival.

Workshops

A series of workshops, lectures and symposia will tackle issues on film production, co-production, new trends in cinema, documentaries and criticism. They will be conducted by a team of international film experts.

Interested parties may apply for slots in these workshops and the participants will be chosen and informed by the secretariat.

The workshop is entirely free of charge.

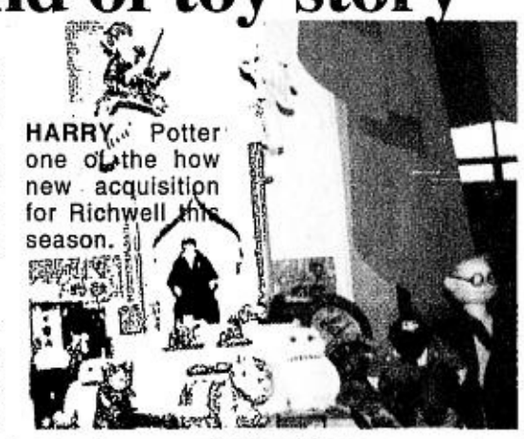
The Cinemanila International Film Festival hopes to inspire local talents to produce world-class Filipino films and gather support for Filipino film artists, educators and audience to develop and promote an emerging national culture through cinema. Cinemanila also hopes to promote the host city, Makati, as a premier venue for arts and culture and in the process generate tourism and trade activities through the festival.

UNVEILING the event (from left), Richwell's COO Myrna T. Yao, Erwin Tulfo, Onemig Bondoc, Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin, Richwell president Alberto S. Yao and Connie Sison.

A different kind of toy story

WHAT do Barbie and Hot Wheels have in common? Besides being a licensed product of Mattel Incorporated of the United States, they are both exclusive products distributed by Richwell Trading Corp. in the Philippines.

Richwell celebrated its 21st year in the industry with a bang. It was 21 years ago when young enterprising couple Alberto S. Yao and Myrna T. Yao started their business with the distributorship of Goodyear Tires and Servitek, which eventually became the number 1 outlet in the Philippines. The couple then decided to expand their business, paving the way for new acquisitions such as Grosby Rubber Shoes, Pigeon Baby Products and a string of other imported products. But the biggest break for the company came when Mattel awarded the exclusive distribution of Barbie dolls and accessories. Since then, the company had created a niche as one of the premiere toy manufacturers and distributors in the Philippines. Richwell's present brand line-ups include Chicco Baby Care and Toy Products, Safety First Safety Products, Fisher Price Baby and Toy Products, Megabloks and Vtech Electronic Toys, to name a few.



HARRY Potter one of the how new acquisition for Richwell this season.

New acquisitions include Harry Potter, Mighty Mo's Jr., Cartoon Network's Dexter's Laboratory and Johnny Bravo and, finally, Oregon Scientific. In a Holiday Tradeshow to commemorate the 21st year in the industry, Richwell was able to invite several big names in the community, Representative Teddy Locsin Jr. of the 1st District of Makati, ABS-CBN hosts Erwin Tulfo, Connie Sison. Ricky Kwek, and Hot Wheel Man Onemig Bondoc.

Highlighting the two-day event, the Barbie Kiddie Models held a mini-fashion show to showcase the Holiday collection for Barbie. The tradeshow which was held at the Main Ballroom of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club invited several concession owners and managers to see the latest range of products for Richwell this Holiday Season. Among the toy products that awed the guests were Vtech's Me-Mo-Mo, a robotic interface that interacts with the use of infra-red technology. Another hot new item that received accolades was the Holiday collection of Barbie products led by Barbie in the Nutcracker. Richwell Trading Corp. is a Hall of Famer for Outstanding Toy Manufacturer in the Philippines by the Consumers Union of the Philippines. ***ADVERTORIAL***

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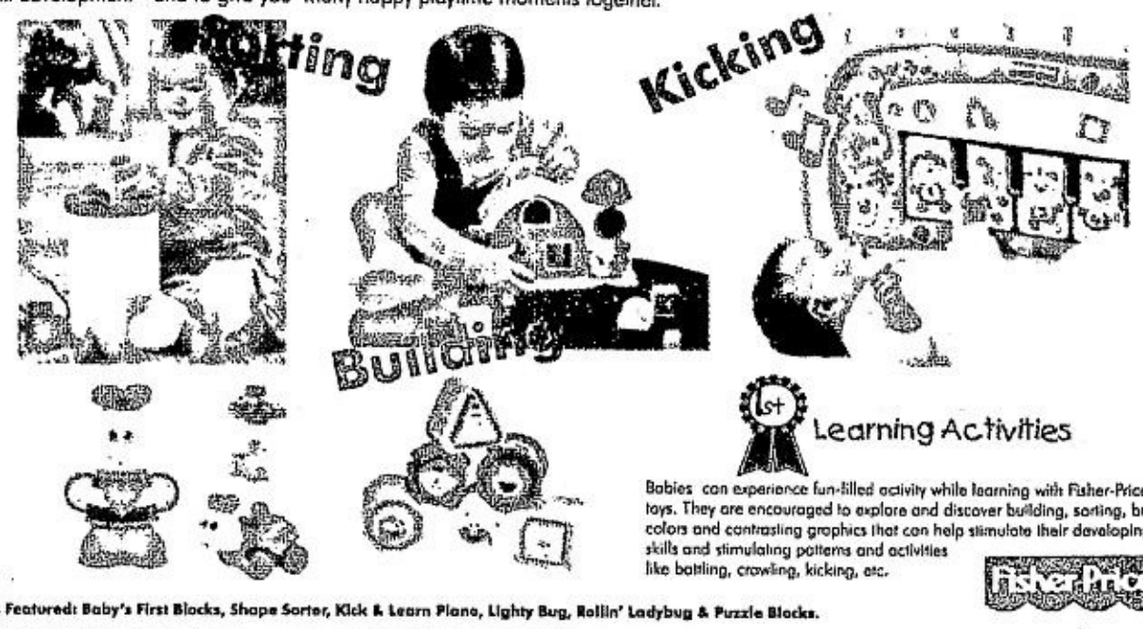

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Cinemanila International Film Festival launched

THE INTERNATIONAL Cinema Association of the Philippines, in association with Movpix International Inc. and the City of Makati will jointly organize the Cinemanila International Film Festival 2001. This annual event will be held Dec. 7-16, 2001 at the Glorietta Cinema and Greenbelt Cinemas in Makati City, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and the University of the Philippines Film Center. A regional film tour will also be conducted in Cebu, Davao and Iloilo.

Independent vision

The first Cinemanila International Film Festival was launched on July 1999 and became a venue for the screening of internationally-acclaimed films. The ideals behind the conception of Cinemanila are similar to the ideals behind the Sundance Film Festival, founded by actor Robert Redford, which seeks to develop artists of independent vision, both national and international. Likewise, Cinemanila will champion films that challenge and stimulate the audience, expand the boundaries of film and discover new filmmaking talents.

Hence, Cinemanila embarks on its dream to become the Sundance of Asia—championing the causes of independent filmmaking.Cinemanila International Film Festival will be a 10-day event that will feature 75 critically acclaimed films from different film capitals of the world.

Full-length films, independent features documentaries as well as short films will be screened at the event. Directors, producers, critics and actors throughout Asia, Europe and North America will be invited to attend the film event.

Filipino films

Contemporary Filipino films will be chosen to compete in the international section and will be one of the centerpieces of the festival.

The 2001 festival will be divided into several sections: World Cinema; Asian Cinema: Philippine Cinema and Young Cinema (Digital Program).

Cinemanila 2001 will present a Philippine Digital Film Festival, which will include an online film event which will present a showcase of the best "indie" Filipino films and others from the region. Lectures and demonstrations about the convergence of digital video and the internet will be the main focus of the symposia to be conducted by a panel of international film experts. Cinemanila 2001 will focus on Asian-American films and artists in recognition of their contribution to the development of the industry.

Seminars and symposia that will cover the broad spectrum of global filmmaking will also be held to encourage international co-production and serve as an avenue for international networking of film artists and producers.

CINEMANILA/P. F3

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SaturdaySPECIAL

The sounds of new musicals echo this fall beyond Broadway

BY MICHAEL KUCHWARA

NEW YORK—From a doomed 19th-century love affair that rocked Argentina to the Lindbergh kidnapping to Texas-transplanted Shakespeare to the world's most famous vampire, there's no shortage of stories being turned into new musicals these days.

Regional theaters

And many of these shows are being written, rewritten and then polished some more beyond Broadway. Their creators are getting much of the work done in regional theaters, playhouses with built-in audiences and facilities that often rival Broadway's.

"It's just a more relaxed atmosphere—period—regardless of what the show is, working in your own home theater, in your own town, for your own community," says director Frank Galati, currently preparing a musical version of Friedrich Durrenmatt's "The Visit" for an Oct. 1 opening at Chicago's Goodman Theater.

Galati is an associate director at the Goodman as well as a member of Chicago's Steppenwolf Theater Co. "We have such a vital theatrical life here and such an interested, committed constituency of subscribers and audience members," he added.

Out-town-tryouts

Regional theaters, for the most part, have replaced traditional commercial out-of-town tryouts as one way to work on a musical before heading, with a little luck and good reviews, to other venues, including New York.

"It may be the only way musicals can come into being these days—other than going to London—because these days we don't have the pre-Broadway thing where you stay out of town until a show is fixed," says Gordon Davidson, who runs the Mark Taper Forum and the Ahmanson Theater in Los Angeles.

The idea of regional theaters doing new musicals is not new. Some notable examples: In the 1980s, La Jolla Playhouse in California served as a launching pad for such New York long runs as "Big River" and "Tommy." "The Full Monty" was birthed at the Old Globe in San Diego last year. And then there's "Annie," a little musical when first done at Connecticut's Goodspeed Opera House in 1976, but eventually one of Broadway's biggest hits.

This fall, Broadway veterans and neophytes alike are working outside of New York.

'Dracula'

La Jolla has "Dracula, The Musical" beginning performances Oct. 9 with music by Frank Wildhorn, who wrote "Jekyll & Hyde," and book and lyrics by Don Black and Christopher Hampton, who collaborated with Andrew Lloyd Webber on "Sunset Boulevard." Tom Hewitt, direct from the Broadway revival of "The Rocky Horror Show," portrays that serious neck biter.

In Cleveland, Jack Herrick of the Red Clay Ramblers has fashioned the score for "Lone Star Love or "The Merry Wives of Windsor, Texas," loosely adapted from Shakespeare's Falstaffian comedy. Performances begin Oct. 18. The choreography is by Randy Skinner, who had a major hand in turning last season's Broadway revival of "42nd Street" into a hit.

'The Visit'

"The Visit" has such experienced hands as John Kander and Fred Ebb composing the score and Terrence McNally adapting the story about a wealthy woman seeking revenge on a man who spurned her. Its stars are Chita Rivera and John McMartin.

"The wonderful thing about working at that level of artistry is that everything the writers create is given a full, committed interpretation. That way you can see whether or not it works," said Galati.

"The Visit" was to have been on Broadway last season, following a traditional commercial tryout at Boston's Colonial Theatre. But its star, Angela Lansbury, a performer with considerable box-office appeal, pulled out because of her husband's illness and the New York engagement was canceled. Now it is starting again.

'Camila'

Newcomer Lori McKelvey has been working on "Camila" for six years, writing the book, music and lyrics. "It's a really big show: a cast of 22 and a tango band of nine," she said of her musical about the passionate liaison between a Jesuit priest and a young Argentinian aristocrat named Camila O'Gorman. "A show this size is tough to get produced anywhere."

LEA Salonga has a major role in "Flower Drum Song."

McKelvey found her angel in Bernard Havard, producing artistic director of the Walnut Street Theater in Philadelphia, where the musical is playing through Oct. 21.

"He's a producer in the old sense," McKelvey said. "He's taking this thing and giving the show the best first-class production you could ask for."

Seasoned performers

The cast is composed of seasoned Broadway performers including Michael Hayden, William Parry and Alma Cuervo. Set designer Ricardo Hernandez, who worked on "Bring in da Noise, Bring in da Funk" in New York, is from Argentina, and the costume designer, Suzy Benzinger, did "Miss Saigon" on Broadway.

"Camila" had an extensive history before Philadelphia: a reading in New York with Jere Shea and Marla Schaffel; a production at the Webster University Conservatory of Music in St. Louis; then another New York reading; a workshop at the Walnut Street Theater; and finally its full production there.

The show's director, BT McNicholl, has been involved from the beginning and in its various incarnations over the years. Quite a change, he said, from the way musicals used to be put together.

Eight weeks

"'My Fair Lady' had eight weeks from its first read-through to its opening night on Broadway," McNicholl said. "It never had a workshop, but it had two tryout stops and, of course, experienced collaborators.

"Now because creators don't get up to bat as often, they may not be able to do in eight weeks what the more experienced folks were able to do back then. What you end up with is a series of regional productions rather than an old-fashioned tryout."

What you lose, he says, is continuity; momentum that gets compromised.

"This time, we have a wonderful company," McNicholl added. "The next time, we may not have them. So everything takes longer."

'Flower Drum Song'

Perhaps the most interesting new musical is an old one. "Flower Drum Song" was one of Rodgers and Hammerstein's lesser hits in the late 1950s, a show that fell out of favor because of its simplistic treatment of Asian-Americans.

"We are, of course, using the score of the old 'Flower Drum Song.' But at the same time, it's fair to say that there is not a line left from the original book," said David Henry Hwang, who rewrote the story. So Hwang, author of "M. Butterfly," doesn't mind calling it a "revisical."

The new version begins performances Oct. 2 for a two-month run at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. "Ideally, if I succeed, it will be the book Oscar Hammerstein would have written if he had been a Chinese-American," said Hwang.

'Baby Case'

No subject seems unlikely. Consider "Baby Case," a musical by Michael Ogborn about the hoopla that followed the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby in 1932. Performances by the Arden Theatre Company, a small Philadelphia troupe, begin Oct. 11 for a month-long run.

The musical was brought to the theater's producing director Terrence Nolen in 1998 by Michael Ogborn, who wrote the book, music and lyrics. Nolen was immediately enthusiastic and decided to direct it himself.

"'Baby Case' is about the kidnapping and the trial, but it's also about the media circus surrounding those events. It's not just a retelling of the narrative," he said.

World premiere

The show was workshopped twice at the Arden and now is having its world premiere at the company's 400-seat theater—with a cast of 24 and an orchestra of 10, the biggest show the Arden has ever done.

Whether any of these musicals will have a life beyond their current homes is uncertain. And their creators aren't saying.

"Our focus has been to make this the most amazing production possible here," said Nolen about "Baby Case."

"There are times, as we have been putting it together, when we thought, 'This is a big story. Maybe it would have more subsequent productions with a smaller cast or if it were orchestrated with fewer pieces.' But we kept saying, 'Well, let's allow the story to decide what it needs to be.' And then let the future bring what it may.'" *AP*

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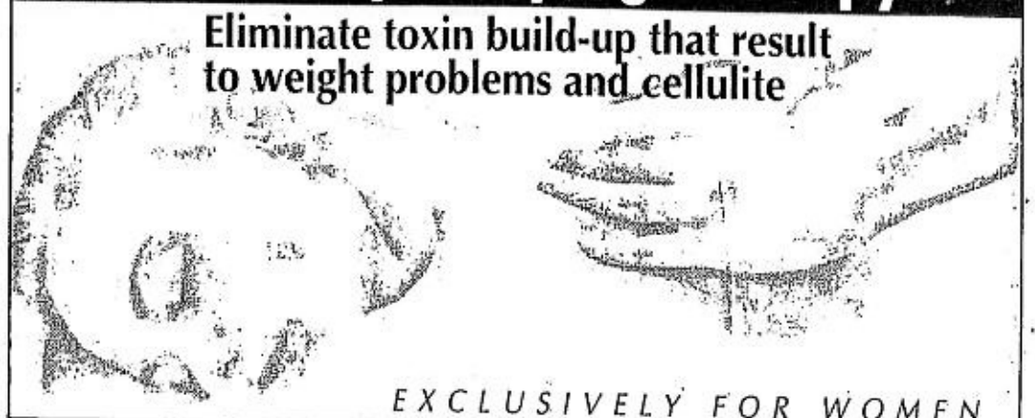

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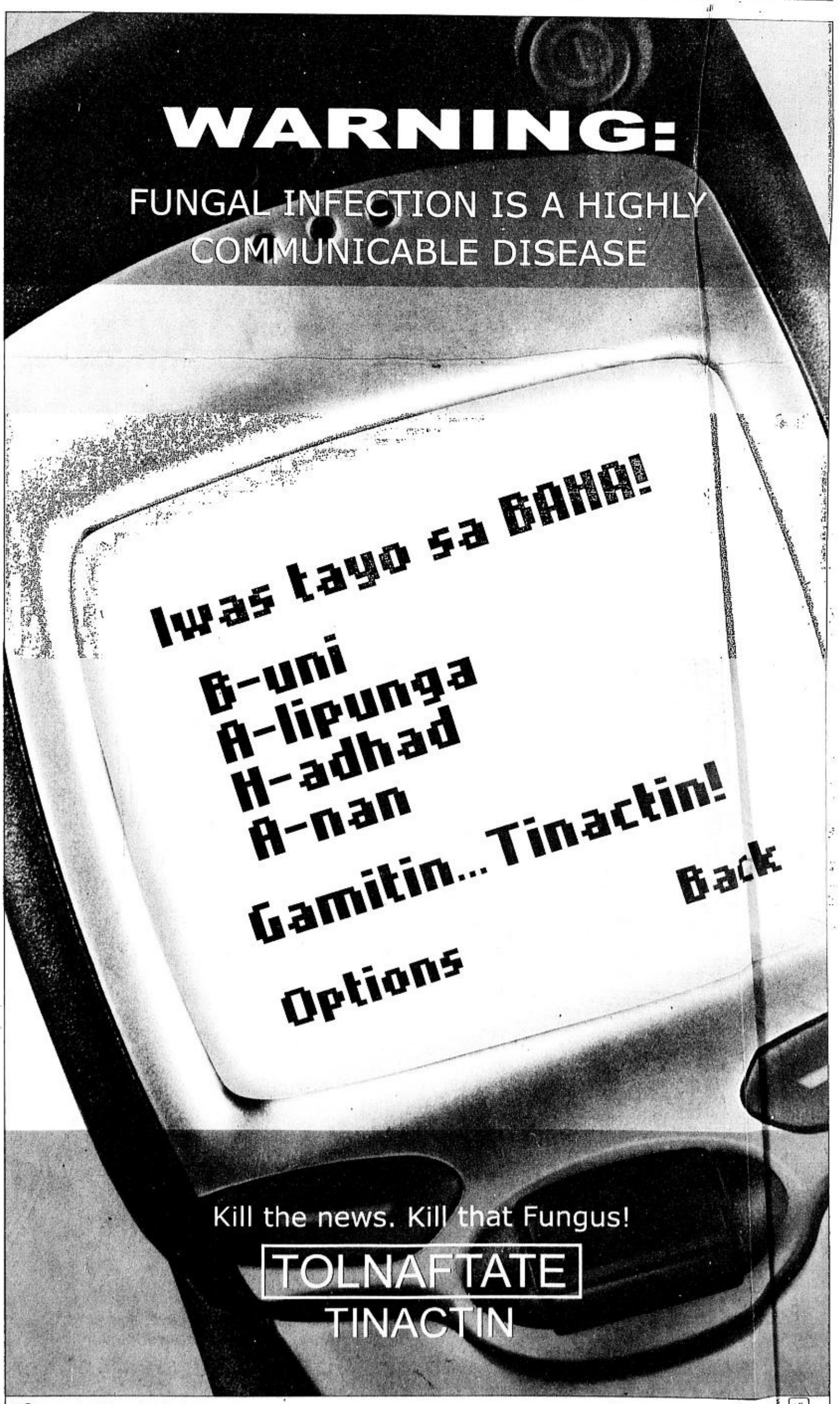

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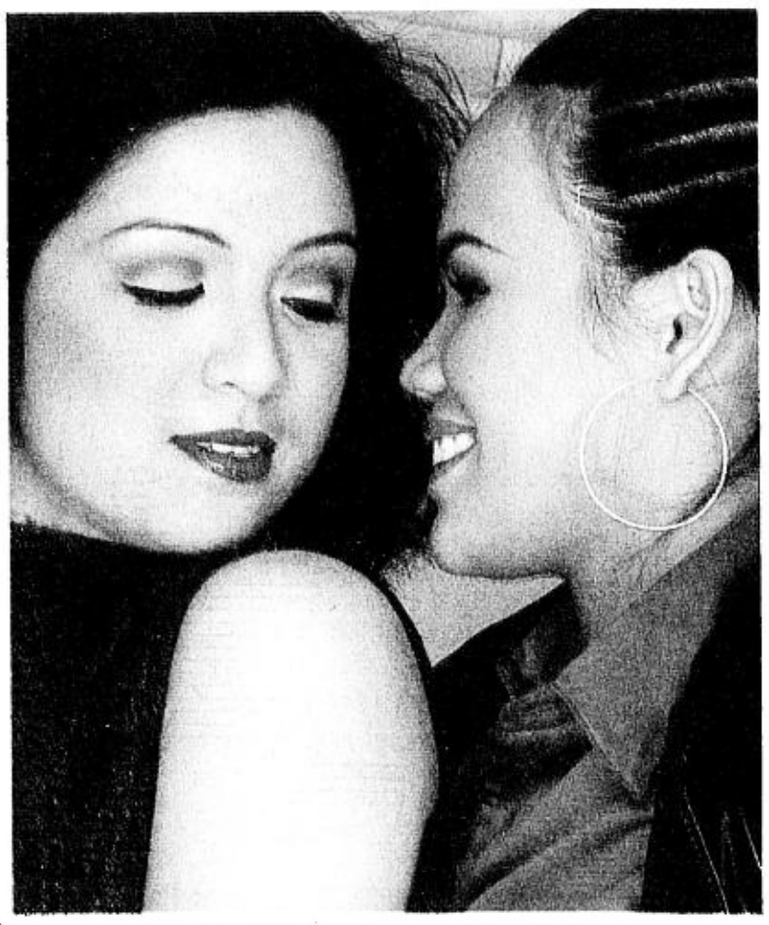
'Rent' cast is one big, happy family

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

"RENT" is back for another run in Manila after a successful stint in Singapore last February. This time, it's going to be at the GSIS theater, and it starts Oct. 5. For a lot of the members of the cast, as well as its director, Bobby Garcia, this is the third time around. We ask director Bobby Garcia during the press con at Uva, "How do you top yourself, especially when you're doing the same thing for the third time around?" Bobby disagrees, "But we're not doing the same thing all over again. This show changed a lot from the '99 Manila run , when it went to Singapore, and it's changed a lot since Singapore. The sets are also bigger and the stage has more depth."



LANA Jalosjos and Bituin Escalante play lesbian lovers.

THE "RENT" ENSEMBLE. The relationships have deepened.

Changes

Even the characters have changed, even in little ways. Says Calvin Millado, who is back as Roger for the third time, "The way Bobby's directing Roger now, he's a lot more physical and angry. He's more frustrated, more extreme. When he gets emotional, he cries like a baby. When he's angry, he rages. *Kulang na lang*, he throws things. He has pent-up emotions basically because he's confused about what he really wants in life. He only finds out towards the end of the play, when he puts the pieces together and finds the song for the person he really loves."

JM Rodriguez, who plays Mark for the third time around, states that "my Mark is deeper emotionally now. I used to think the point of Mark was the happy, funny, punch-my-lines Mark, but my Act 2 Mark, which is supposed to show his serious side, is different. I have a deeper understanding of him now. Especially when Mark realizes that he's a very detached character—I think that's a lot clearer for me now."

There are people who are playing new roles. Bituin Escalante, who impressed audiences with her solo in "Seasons of Love" in the '99 production is now playing Joanne, lesbian lawyer and lover of Maureen, who is going to be played by Lana Jalosjos, former swing of both "Rent 99" and "Rent Singapore." "I'm having a lot of fun with Joanne," says Bituin. "I didn't think I would, in all honesty. I thought she would be very staid, but I'm actually having a lot of fun. I'm getting to know her *kasi, eh*. And it helps that Lana's Maureen because she does such a good job."

Kissing scenes

Do they enjoy the kissing scenes? "It's very pleasant." Bituin says with a smile, "Not that we've done it yet. It's all smacks on the lips *pa lang*. I might scare Lana away if I do it for real *na*." To which Lana says, "*Hindi, handa ako diyan*! I have no problems playing a lesbian. I have some friends who are lesbians, so I can probably feel how they feel." Both girls are confirmed very straight women. Says Bituin, "I love men too much!"

Another thing that has changed over the past two runs is that "the relationships have deepened," Bobby observes of his cast. "They're stronger. These guys are really friends in real life. The fact that they've now become really good friends with each other affects the show, because you can't fool an audience onstage. If you don't like your co-star, no matter what you try to do, *makikita rin yan, eh*. But these guys all love each other, and you can see it." Bobby observes of his cast.

JM agrees: "In order for a show like 'Rent' to succeed, you have to be tight. Everyone has to love each other, and everyone has to work well with each other. And since we have achieved that in the beginning and in Singapore, it just stayed there. And we just keep on getting tighter and tighter with each run."

Chemistry

But what's the reason behind the chemistry of the cast? Bobby attributes it to Jonathan Larson. "His work and music just bring out the best in people. In us. In all of the people involved in the show. It really makes us see the best in each other. That's how strong his music and lyrics are."

Bituin adds, "When you're working with this material, you can't help but see relationships the way the characters see relationships. This is the last time we're going to be together doing this play." Bobby interjects, "...at least in Manila..." Bituin continues, " So we make the most out of the moments with each other. You can't help but treasure each moment."

Calvin agrees, "The 'Rent' cast has grown to be more than just a company. We have bonded in such a way that I can safely call these people family."

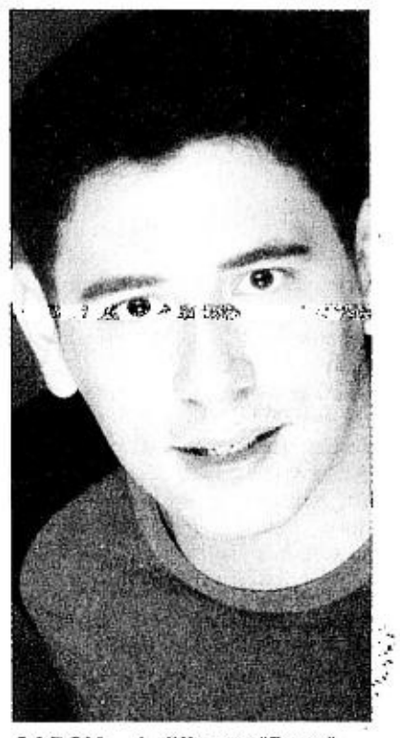
Has any of this "bonding" gone beyond friendship? "None that I know of..." Calvin says laughingly. JM confirms, "None in the cast... brother-sister *lang kami dito*. Now, there's Lee (Robin Salazar) and Rachel (Alejandro) in the cast, but they were together before they were both in 'Rent.' Look for romance outside 'Rent' *na lang*."

Rehearsals

But does this bonding ever get in the way of rehearsals? Bobby says, "We know when we begin rehearsals, it's work. When they get notes, good or bad, it's about the work. We all understand that we have this wonderful friendship but we also know we have a show to put on that requires tremendous discipline and hard work.

"The minute someone gets lax, they get reprimanded for it, but it doesn't get in the way of our bond as friends. It's also because these are a bunch of people who love this show to death and will do anything and accept anything to make this show better."

How have rehearsals been? "Much quicker. Except for Calvin..." Bobby laughs. Apparently, Calvin is the favorite whipping boy of the cast.



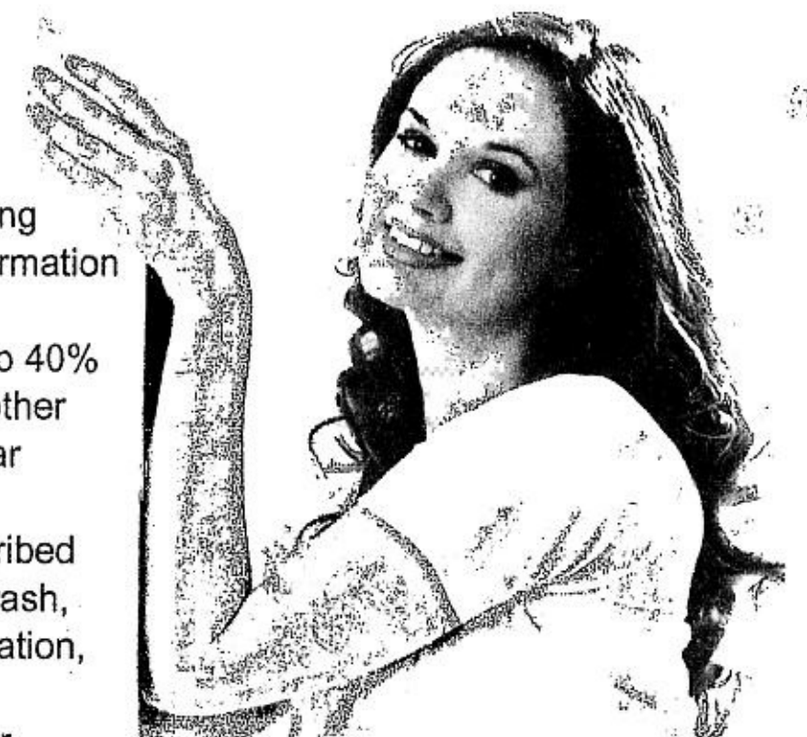
GARCIA. A different "Rent."

Calvin narrates, "He (Bobby) gives you a nice comment, then he takes it back after three seconds! He makes everyone laugh at my expense. But seriously, I love Bobby. I love my director. I think he's been really, really patient with me. I have a very short attention span. Last night, he said that my Roger has really grown, that he's seen a lot of heart in it. I was so touched and flattered that I said, 'Dinner's on me!' I wound up treating everybody!"

Last time

So are there plans of bringing "Rent" anywhere else, now that it's been stated that this is the last time it's going to be staged in Manila? Bobby says, "The Singaporean people have talked about possibly bringing it back to Singapore because it was a big hit there. And then there might be Hong Kong. But, I wouldn't mind if this was it for us. Because it's a fantastic cast—and it's the best form we've had it yet. This is, vocally, the strongest cast we've ever assembled. It's very exciting. So, in many ways, it's good to leave it with amazing memories and where it's really at its best."

There's no sense wearing ordinary underwear.



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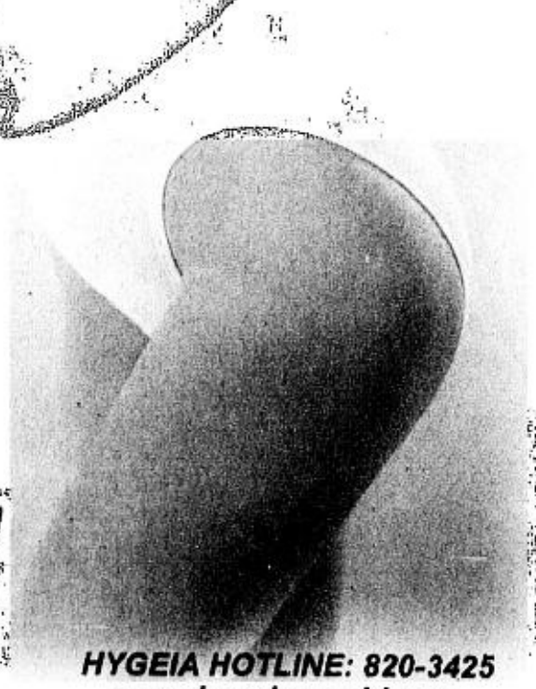

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Rockwell goes Retro for the environment

SAVING the environment is everybody's business! Rockwell Center's Power Plant Mall will be the special venue for a most exciting charity event: "Rockwell Goes Retro for the La Mesa!"

The event, to benefit the La Mesa Watershed Project, will relive the '60s and '70s. Be part of the celebration and show that saving the environment is everyone's business, whatever their generation and occupation.

A series of concerts features popular baby boomers There will be two dinner concerts on Oct. 2 and 3 at the ground level of the rear lobby:

Oct. 2 (Tuesday)—"Ryan Cayabyab & Friends"—Joannie Feliciano, Janet Basco, Lani Mercado, Nanette Inventor, Mon David, Richard Merck, Chad Borja, Dulce and Verni Varga.

Oct.3 (Wednesday)—"Broadway in the '60s"—Jamie Rivera, Isay Alvarez, Robert Seña, Raymond Lauchengco, Pinky Amador, Leo Valdez and many more, with Toti Fuentes on the baby grand.

"Retro @ Rockwell," the big shindig at the Rockwell Covered Courts, will happen on Oct 4. Groove to the music of Ramon Jacinto, Spirit of '67 and other stars.

Call 415-2227.

CAYABYAB. Oct. 2 performance.

RIVERA. Broadway hits on Oct. 3.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Viva signs up music video director

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

THANKS to music videos, directors of short films are getting opportunities to widen their limited audience and earn rent money in the process. Take Lyle Sacris whose thesis for his film degree in UP was "Ang Luwalhati't Hinagpis ng Ika-13 Hintuturong Nakaririmarim Sa Loob Ng Hunyaong Bughaw Habang May Luntiang Pag-aaklas Sa Kumunoy ng Bahag-hari." If he had become a purist and just did short films with kilometric titles, he probably wouldn't have gotten the recognition he deserves.

At the recent MTV Video Awards in New York, his music video for Kyla's "Hanggang Ngayon" won the MTV Viewer's Choice Award for Southeast Asia, bringing to four the number of awards he has received in a year.

Slapshock's "Agent Orange" won Best Music Video at the NU Rock Awards in November 2000. Kyla's "Hanggang Ngayon"' was Best Video at the recent MTV Philippines Music Video Awards. Chico Science's "Sink or Swim" won Best Video by a New Artist. And for the first time in the history of the MTV Philippines Music Video Awards, a category for Best Director was included and the award went to Sacris.

With his innovative work, Sacris has caught the attention of Viva Films which has signed him to a two-picture contract. Like another young director, Yam Laranas, Sacris will also work on a sex film for his first project.

Sacris's long-term plan is to be able to earn enough money to make an independent movie. He needs about P3million for his dream indie project so he probably has to work real hard for several years to raise the funding.

A new product makes a big splash

When a company has a new product, it usually wants to make a big splash to create immediate awareness in the market. This is done by holding launching events in malls or other big places so that many people can attend.

In the case of Touch Mobile, the management of Islacom, in cooperation with Globe, decided to use television for greater impact. TV viewers outnumber the people who go to all the malls combined and can dramatize the product benefits more clearly.

Touch Mobile chose a live extravaganza on "ASAP" last Sunday to trumpet their new product and bought one hour of the show for a princely sum. We were present at the Folk Arts Theater when the launch was held. The "ASAP" gang presented a fast-paced musical show that entertained the live audience and more important, the home viewers with energetic songs and dances.

It was a painless way to extol the many features of the product and with stars Ariel Rivera, Pops Fernandez, Jolina Magdangal, Zsa Zsa Padilla, the Hunks and many others extolling Touch Mobile, the show managed to create a big splash for the new product.

What made the show go very fast was the way "ASAP" shortened the spiels and concentrated on the music thus raising the excitement level of viewers both in the theater and at home.

On the production side, ABS-CBN didn't use the main stage as the center of attention but instead constructed a long ramp leading to the center of Folk Arts so the cameras could get better angles of the numbers and the performers were closer to the live audience.

Although the duet was no longer part of the launch, the duet featuring Rosanna Roces and rock icon Sampaguita was also a winner. Rosanna was promoting her movie "La Vida Rosa" so Diether Ocampo, who's a part of "ASAP," did a naughty number with her. Naughty but nice.

SACRIS. Four awards from MTV.

CONFETTI livens up a musical number featuring Zsa Zsa Padilla.

"ASAP" hosts RJ Rosales, Pops Fernandez and Ariel Rivera.

PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

AGA AND JOYCE. Winning chemistry.

'Da Pilya en da Pilot'

AGA Muhlach and Joyce Jimenez take flight in ABS-CBN'S "Da Pilya en da Pilot" every Saturday at 9 p.m.

A spin-off from the pair's old series "Da Body en Da Guard," "Da Pilya en Da Pilot" continues the winning chemistry between one of the country's most wholesome heartthrobs, Aga Muhlach and *paintasya ng bayan* Joyce Jimenez.

Entrepreneur

Aga still portrays his role in Da Body—security guard-turned-entrepreneur Edgard Flores. Now running his own business after inheriting a charter plane company from his uncle, he still has ties to Don Ramon Dragon (Bonggoy Manahan), his former employer, who has moved of his family to Australia. For one thing, Don Ramon's eldest, Robbie (Joyce), is now gradually inching towards a real relationship with Edgard, but her new life is not without its challenges. Robbie even has extra responsibilities now, starting with her brother JR (John Pratts), who is determined to make a go of his music studies in the country.

Some of the characters from the parent sitcom also return, beginning with Roderick Paulate as the Dragon family's snobby *mayordomo*, M.O., who was forced to return to the Philippines to look after Robbie. Now he's determined to make Robbie and Edgard's lives as miserable as possible. Gina Pareño also returns as Aling Guma, Edgard's kindhearted mother who is now on a mission to get her son to give the neighborhood toughies jobs in his new company. She's already gotten Edgard to hire Boy Saksak (Bearwin Meilly) as part of his ground crew.

New characters

New characters include "G-mik" cutie Heart Evangelista as Edgard's pretty cousin, Sammy Lagmay as the strict ATO inspector in charge of Edgard's charter company and sexy Wilma Doesn't as Robbie's best friend at the gym.

"Da Pilya en da Pilot" makes for a complete comedy night on ABS-CBN Saturday, as it airs back-to-back with the Jolina Magdangal gag-comedy starrer "Arriba Arriba," now on a new timeslot from 7-8 p.m., and Maricel Soriano's "Mary D' Potter" at 8 p.m.

'GHOST OF MARS'

A sci-fi horror thriller from John Carpenter

JOHN Carpenter's "Ghosts of Mars" is a harrowing tale of rescue and escape from a colonized Mars in the year 2025. Natasha Henstridge and Ice Cube star in the sci-fi horror-thriller.

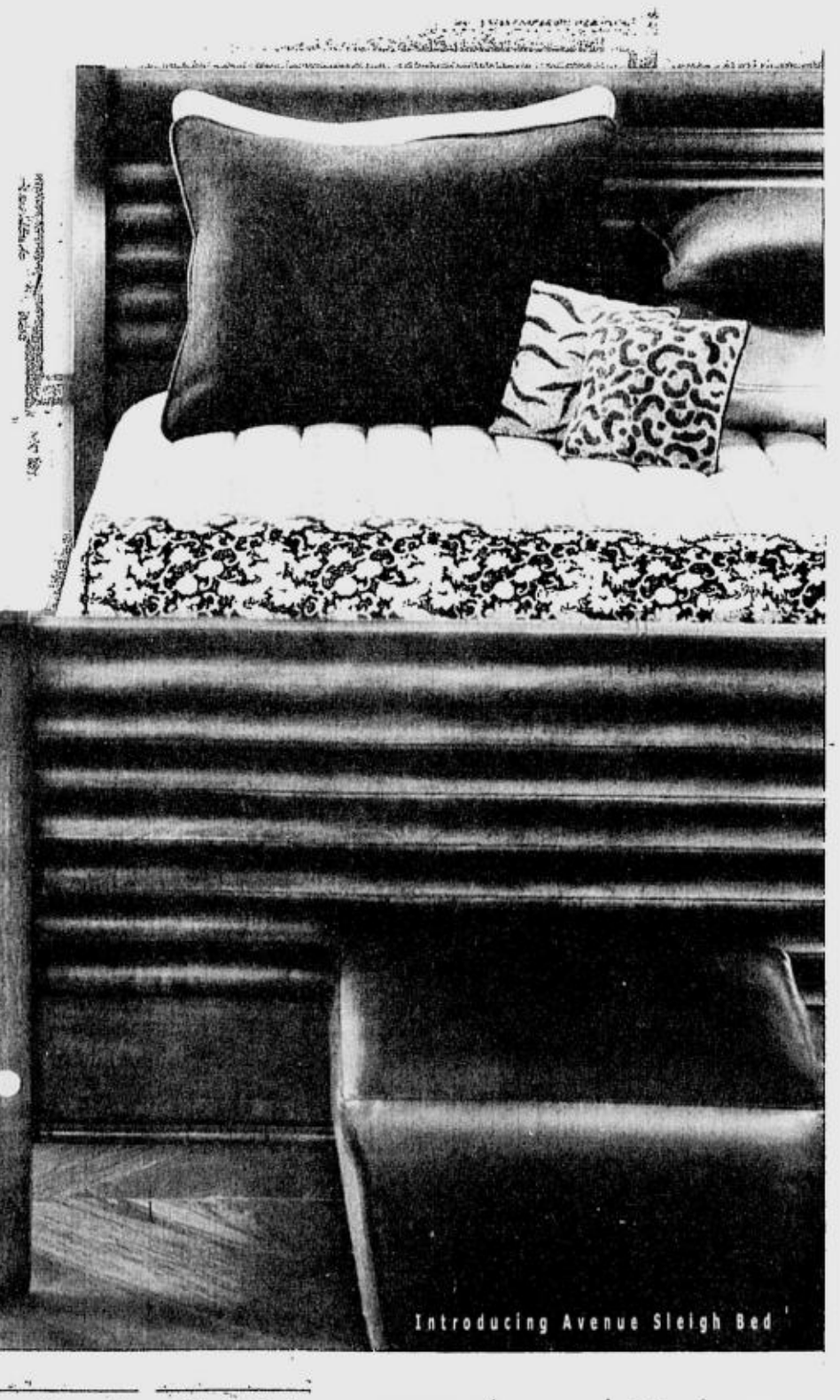
Over-populated earth

Long inhabited by human settlers, the Red Planet has become the manifest destiny of an over-populated Earth. Nearly 640,000 people now live and work all over Mars, mining the planet for its abundant natural resources. But one of those mining operations has uncovered a deadly mother lode: a long-dormant Martian civilization whose warriors are systematically taking over the bodies of human intruders.

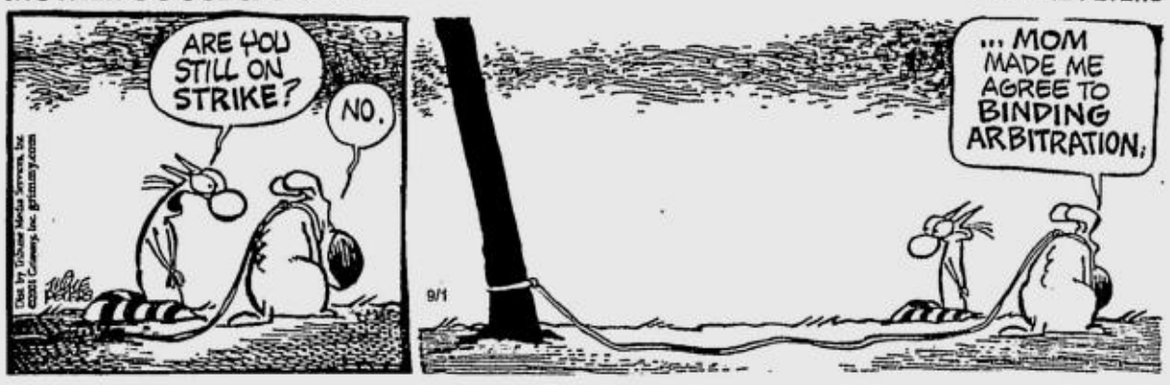
Lt. Melanie Ballard (Henstridge) of the Martian Police Force is on a transport assignment to bring James "Desolation" Williams (Ice Cube), the planet's most notorious criminal, to justice. Williams has no plans to make Ballard's job easy, and what begins as a battle of force and wits between cop and criminal soon turns into something more fundamental: a battle for human survival in the realm of the Martian warriors. It's civilization against civilization as Ballard and Williams join forces in mortal combat with the Ghosts of Mars.

Blood and war

"Since the mid-1980s, I've wanted to do a story about Mars," explains John Carpenter. "For centuries, the planet has symbolized so many things to us—blood, war, love, and passion. Additionally, I had a story about a cop and a crook bonding together to fight the forces of evil. So I thought combining these elements would make a great science fiction/horror movie."



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jerry Lee Lewis, Bryant Gumbel, Lech Walesa, Jean Luc Ponty, Natasha Wagner

Happy Birthday: Focus on your goals and let everything else wait. Don't slack off, vacillate, or miss an opportunity because you're preoccupied. Get on with your plans to reach success. If you overload your plate, you will have regrets. Your numbers: 3, 15, 24, 31, 35, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may want to take care not to share secret information. You can do well to concentrate on your finances. Check out interesting investments and take advantage of a moneymaking opportunity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Romantic opportunities are evident if you're involved in large groups or organizations. Dazzle new friends with your quick wit and charm. Don't hold back if you like someone; let him know.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You've got to be direct. If you stretch the truth, you may be blamed for something you didn't do. Social events should end up in a romantic interlude. Use discrimination and play hard-to-get.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll find it easy to talk about feelings today. Find out exactly what you want to know by asking pertinent questions. Regardless of your first reaction today, the outcome will be favorable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may make some money by taking advantage quickly of a deal you're privy to. Check out some options for making your home a more comfortable and pleasing environment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Travel will provide all sorts of possibilities, including romantic attractions. Social activities will be enjoyable and promote new connections. Just be yourself to attract someone special.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your charming personality will come in handy today. Opportunities to show your worth will enhance your reputation and bring possible advancement. Your energy must be directed into productive goals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be highly creative today so don't waste time. Get busy developing some of your ideas. You will have fun at social functions, so don't sit home alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone you live with is ready to play emotional games. Don't bend to the pressure. Keep busy and let him or her fume while you're not around. Don't let anyone blame you for something that you have no control over.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be more talkative than usual. Use your communication skills to sort out any differences you have in an amiable manner. Make plans to do something special with the one you love.

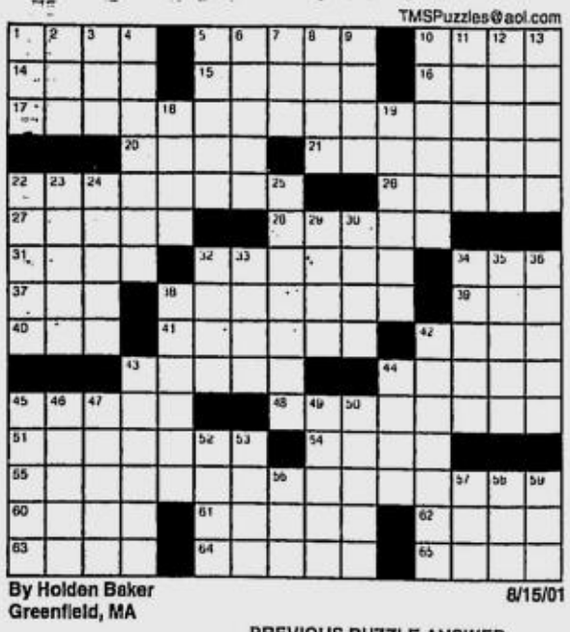
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can put in some overtime and make extra cash. Your ability to get things done and take responsibility will certainly enhance your reputation. Check out possible career directions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Think about joining an unusual group that interests you. The more interaction you have today, the better. You will be in the right frame of mind to daydream about distant places.

Birthday Baby: You have a soft heart and a giving nature. You are practical, determined and willing to try anything at least once. Despite your creative ability, you will choose to follow a more lucrative path throughout life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Holden Baker Greenfield, MA

8/15/01

ACROSS
1 Milky Way maker
5 Made longer ago
10 Impersonator
14 Adjoin
15 Bow or Barton
16 Portuguese lady
17 Three captains
20 Sign of things to come
21 Tapering tower
22 A captain
26 Cacophonous
27 Zodiac ram
28 French science fiction writer Jules
31 Hankerings
32 Titania's husband
34 Sault __ Marie
37 Landers or Sothern
38 A captain
39 Cribbage marker
40 Jay follower
41 Children of Uranus and Gaea
42 Rabbit's title
43 Bearer
44 Privileged few
45 Indian state
48 A captain
51 Bestial
54 Keep in check
55 Three captains
60 Alternative to a rapier
61 Military groups
62 Needle case
63 __ one's way (proceed)
64 Taylor of "The Nanny"
65 Took the subway

DOWN
1 Anthropology focus
2 Burrows or Fortas
3 Grog ingredient
4 Stool pigeons
5 Earth tone
6 South American grassy plain
7 Pat
8 Times of note
9 Lose control of a tirade
10 Hold together
11 Bolivian lake
12 "__ Gay"
13 Gardener, at times
18 Amo, __; amat...
19 Actress Durbin
22 Whitewater vessel
23 Where the action is
24 Simpleton
25 Hardball pitch
29 Emerald Isle
30 Fierce mythical birds
32 Fail to mention
33 __-noire
34 Piece of parsley
35 Saw's cutters
36 White heron
38 Part of AEC
42 Turn signal
43 Drunk
44 Oklahoma city
45 To one side
46 Pilfer
47 Ambulance warning
49 Very angry
50 Thick
52 Basic taste sensation
53 Sharpen
56 Relative
57 O.J. Simpson's judge
58 Flop
59 Expire

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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8/15/01

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

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Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DO television people abroad also commit humorous blunders? But of course! On a recent trip out of the country, we kept the TV set on in our hotel room, and jotted down these "international" boob-tube booboos:

Host: With all of the evidence that's available now, how soon do you think will investigators come up with their final report and recommendations?

Guest: Wait a minute! Contrary to the implications of your question, it's by no means clear at this point that the investors are convinced that they have uncovered enough evidence to make a strong case!

(How did we get from investigators to investors?)

* * *

Host: What are the new trends on the business scene, at least in your particular sector, these days?

Guest: With the public's mood now so volatile, the key in any field is to present yourself and your service in different ways that the audience would quickly laugh it up.

(Funny business!)

* * *

Host: These past days have been very disturbing, nerve-wracking. Everybody's on edge, fearful about the future. How can they be helped?

Guest: A lot of human psychology has to be involved, definitely.

Host: And it will have a positive effect?

Guest: Oh, tremendisely!

(Looks like you're getting spooked, too!)

* * *

Host: What do you see happening in the next few weeks?

Guest: Well, at first, everybody will try to be temperate in their actions, but—

Host: This may not last long?

Guest: Well, human nature being what it is, the consensus may not hold, and we could soon see a rise in protestants.

(How did protestants get into this?)

* * *

Host: How did you become outstanding in your field?

Guest: It's all the product of my parents. They really pounded and pounded into me. It's my story as a childhood!

(Huh?)

* * *

Host: What's up on our show today?

Co-host: Well, we have particularly interesting resource persons to clarify the recent events that have happened, all begging for clearer understanding.—All in all, a very strong group of participates!

Do television people abroad also commit humorous blunders? But, of course

(First protestants, now participates?!)

* * *

Host: After everything has been said, can *you* pick your choice of culprits in this case?

Guest: No, the findings are still very fisheries!

(What fisheries?)

* * *

Host: What about you? Any final thoughts on this admittedly very complex case?

Co-host: Well, you know me—I don't jump on conclusions!

(Uh, good for you . . .)

* * *

Host: What accounts for your country's apparent lack of unity?

Guest: It's the consequence of numerous factors, not the least of which are many conflicting inputs from many countries during our colonic period.

(Colonic?—Oh, you mean colonial!)

'Will Your Fortune' airs tomorrow on GMA-7

GMA-7 airs the second episode of "Will Your Fortune, in the Game of Life," tomorrow at 11:30 p.m. The show is hosted by George Sison, the Philippines' foremost New Thought exponent and TV news anchor Amelyn Veloso.

After the initial airing of "Will your Fortune, in the Game of Life" two months ago, GMA-7 received numerous inquiries as to when the inspiring show will be aired once again. Unlike other talk shows that tackle political issues, this one teaches viewers how to strike a healthy balance of health, wealth, love and success in one's life.

As George Sison emphasized in the first episode, "we can all have everything we desire--the most attractive body, a successful career, fun and loving relationship and all the money you will ever need. All it takes is the application of basic principles that promote harmony and balance in mind, body and spirit."

This Sunday, listen to inspiring stories form ordinary individuals who were able to create miraculous changes in their lives. By simply practicing principles of harmony, they were able to heal the body from all kinds of sickness, attract the job promotion they have always dreamed of and find the means to build their dream house and drive their dream car.

"You need not join any game show to be a millionaire. Watch the show and we will teach you how to bring millions of blessings in your life," Sison said. "Will your Fortune, in the Game of Life" is directed by Rene Molina with executive producer Tato Malay.

Ian Valdez, aspiring character actor

THOUGH he has been successful as an impersonator, beauty pageant organizer and radio personality, Ian Valdez is trying to gain recognition as a character actor.

Years back, Ian traveled to Tokyo as an impersonator with a group of Filipino entertainers in Japan called "Mannequins." His group, now called "Closet Queens," has been known for its fabulous shows and colorful costumes.

TV guestings

It has gone through rounds of TV guestings and concerts in hotels and casinos like Sheraton, Audit and Holiday Inn. It also opened the Rockwell district in Makati with Johnny Litton and Jullie Yap Daza hosting the event. "Closet Queens" staged another concert at the Rembrandt Hotel on Sept. 27 under Danny Atienza's See-Lips Production.

With the success of "Closet Queens," Ian hopes to help other entertainers through his Showgirls Placement Agency which sends performers to Japan. He has also put up Showgirls Costume Design, which supplies costumes to talent agencies here and abroad.

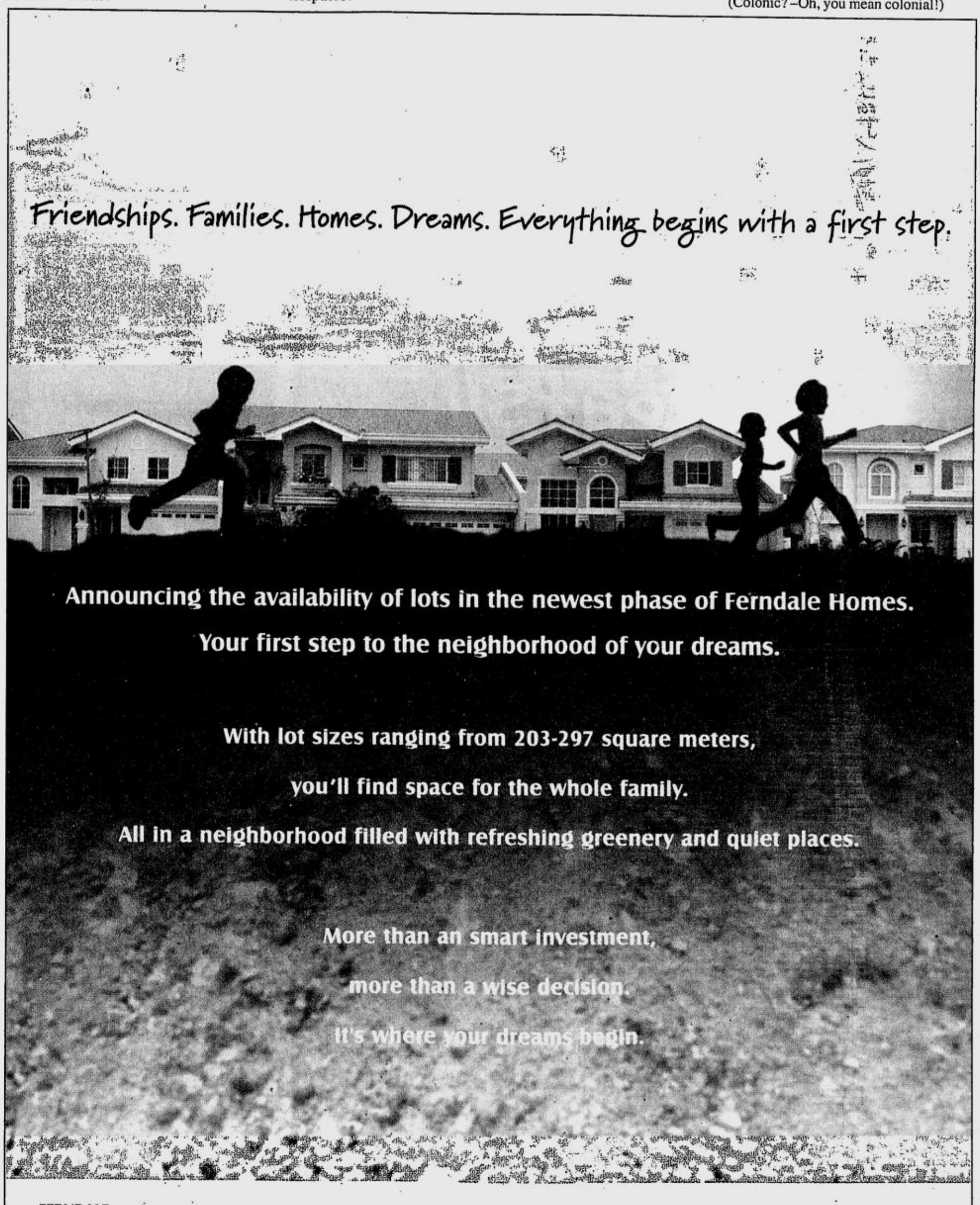
A former Miss Gay Philippines title holder, Ian eventually took over the operations of the event. He nodded to the responsibility because he wanted to continue having a venue for gays to showcase their talent. Its proceeds go to the Golden Gays foundation.

Confidence

But beyond the financial reward, contestants gain confidence to come out and display their talents.

Ian is heard regularly on " Show Biz Scandal" with Elmer Antonio, which airs every Saturday, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. over dwSS.

Ian is pursuing a career in show business He has done bit roles in TV and movies. He recently signed a six-picture contract with Taurus Films. He is currently shooting "Masakit, Huwag Ipilit" with Rita Magdalena, Hazel Espinosa and Jeffrey Gonzales and is also finishing "Selda" with Natasha Ledesma. He is set to shoot "Sapagkat Kami'y Tao Lamang," which is intended for the Metro Manila Film Festival.



ALBUM REVIEWS

R&B treats that your ears can feast on

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

Urban Renewal
Various R&B artists (featuring Phil Collins)
Warner Music Phils.

"URBAN Renewal" covers most of Phil Collins' biggest hits but the songs are sung by various R&B and hiphop artists. Phil Collins makes good music everytime, so this album is a must-have.

New arrangement

The new arrangement makes it difficult for a Phil Collins fan to hum the tune of "Against All Odds" and "Another Day in Paradise" but the idea is novel and appealing. Maybe because songs by Phil Collins are already considered classics. As a musician, Phil is as popular and prolific as Andrew Lloyd Webber and the Beatles.

The new R&B flavor makes this album hard to resist. In terms of melody and content, it's a virtual feast for the ears.

"Another Day in Paradise" by Brandy and her brother, Ray J puts a hip-hop, upbeat, optimistic approach to a rather sad and tragic song. Phil Collins' version is somber and brooding. Brandy and Ray attack the song differently and add vigor and hope to the song. The song deals with hardship and struggle. Brandy and Ray encourage listeners to have hope and feel "the paradise" as they cope with the hardship.

Bumming around

"Sussudio" by Ol' Dirty Bastard is the perfect song for bumming around. The energetic beat pushes the listener to get up from the couch and move around. It's a cool song to use as background music when you're exercising, driving or dancing in a club.

"Something Happened on the Way to Heaven" by Deborah Cox is arresting and soulful. Somehow the lyrics, "you can run, you can hide, but I'm not leaving" takes on a different meaning when it's sung by a woman. Alright, it's another "martyr" break-up song but it sounds less mushy because Deborah restrains herself from going overboard.

Bittersweet appeal

"I Wish It Would Rain Down" by Brian McKnight is a treat while Montell Jordan's version of "Against All Odds" is irresistible. Montell gives it the same bittersweet appeal as Phil's original version. These two tracks enjoy constant replays on the CD player because after hearing them, you want to hear them again and again. They are like mantras that refuse to die down.

Rhona (self-titled debut)
Rhona
Sony Music

Rhona mixes pop, rock, R&B, hip-hop and jazz in her debut album and pulls it off. The tightly-woven, funky beats and catchy melodies make this album a treat. Though Rhona's vocal style is a cross between teen divas, Brandy and Monica, she sometimes reveals that she has her own distinct and unique sound.

Sensual interpretation

"Satisfied" is a good track. The lyrics make you believe in life and love and Rhona's smooth, sensual interpretation gives it a life of its own.

"The Best of Me" is a letdown. Rhona's husky, low-pitched tone provides comfort but the lyrics are dry. Even if she puts urgency and emotion to the song, the song falls flat.

"Look to the Sky" reflects sweet innocence and vulnerability as it deals with love, pain and hope. The multi-layered strings and acoustic guitar floating within the mix enhance it with a solid and melancholic feel.

Inspirational ballads like "I Will" and "First Time" entwine good music with lyrics. It's a stirring and moving take about love and being human.

Rhona mixes pop, rock, R & B, hip-hop and jazz and pulls it off

"URBAN RENEWAL." Mantras that refuse to die down.

Soul and sweetness

The remake of "I Wanna Know What Love Is" fits nicely into the album. It has the right combination of soul and sweetness to make it stand out. This song reminds you of Celine Dion and Mariah Carey when they were starting out.

RHONA. A cross between Brandy and Monica.

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2001 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 51

WWW.INQ7.NET

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- Kuwento: Si Pedro at ang mga Sirena Page 6
- Atomo & Weboy Page 10
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Dog Tired

Volunteers comfort search dogs traumatized from rescue efforts

AFTER weeks of search and rescue at the site of the fallen World Trade Center, rescue dogs are succumbing to fatigue and depression. Their human team partners are scrambling to restore the dogs' health and good spirits.

Mike Owens, a member of Ohio's southwestern K9 search and rescue team, said that his 12-year-old dog, Worf, became so depressed after three hours of work at the site that he couldn't work.

Owens said that other dogs on the team also became agitated and confused.

"They know when it's death. They get up-

Dog/p.11

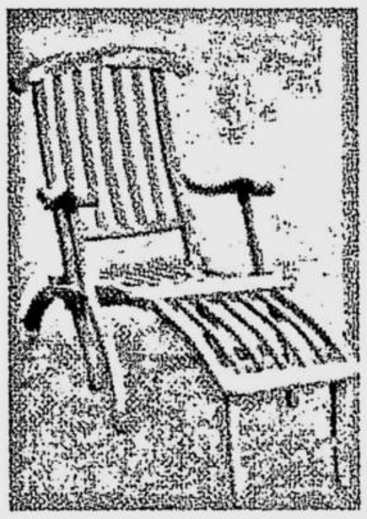
HELP FROM MAN'S BEST FRIEND. A black-and-white border collie named "Cowboy"—a search canine for the Federal Emergency Management Agency—yelps anxiously from the top of the pile of rubble at the World Trade Center site. The 100 Fema dogs certified nationally as Canine Search Specialists "have a sense of smell so keen that they pick up scents in the tightest spots, where no equipment can go," says Don Hull, a Los Angeles fire battalion chief with Fema.

AP

WORLD SCOPE

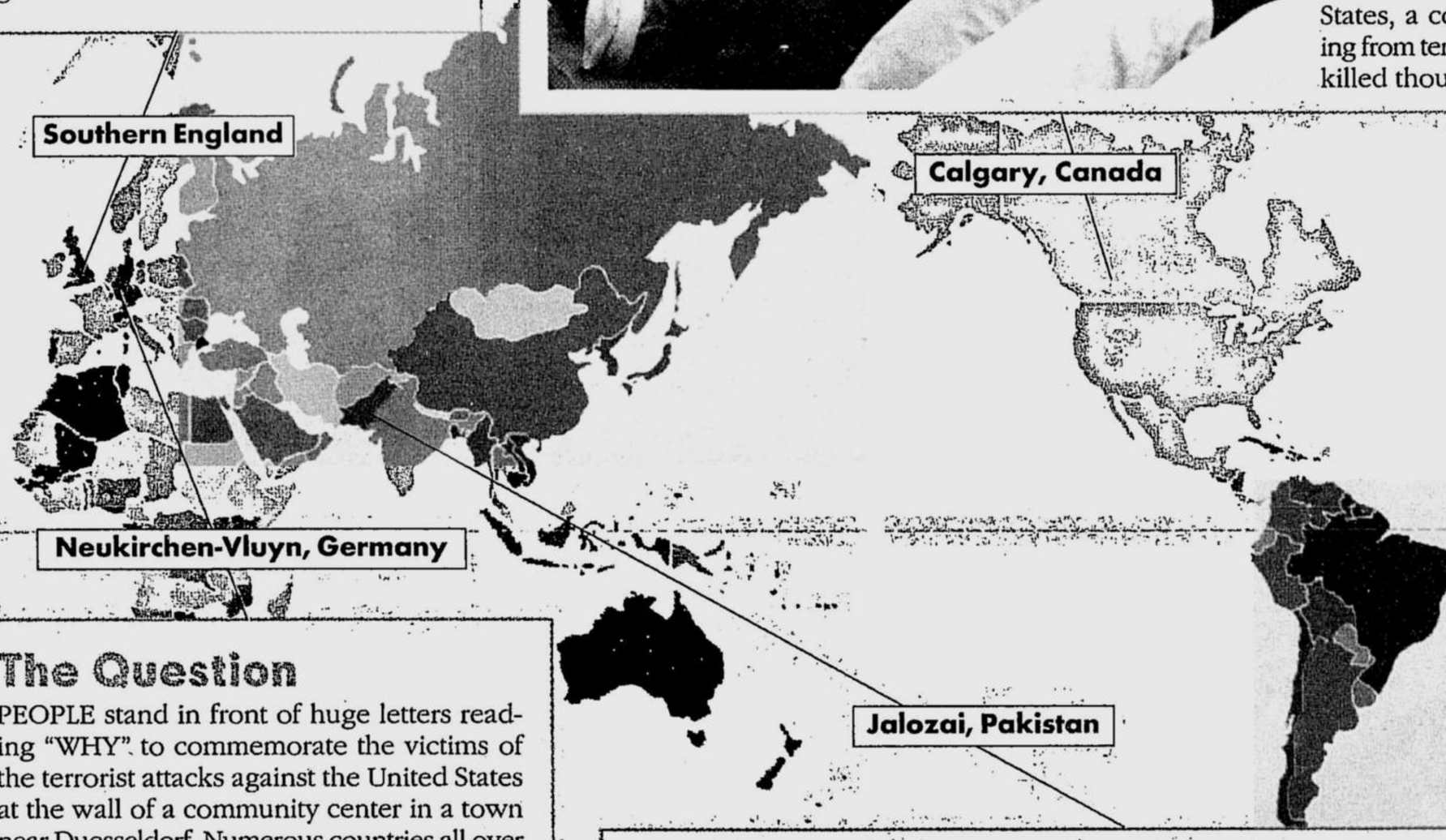
From Another Tragedy

A LONG time ago, many Americans also perished in a ship called "The Titanic." Today, artifacts from the ship are being sold at really high prices. This deckchair was expected to be sold for up to $43,000 at an auction in England. Other Titanic linked items being auctioned include a letter written on board, a reclaimed pincushion and a cork plug from a lifebelt. ***AP***



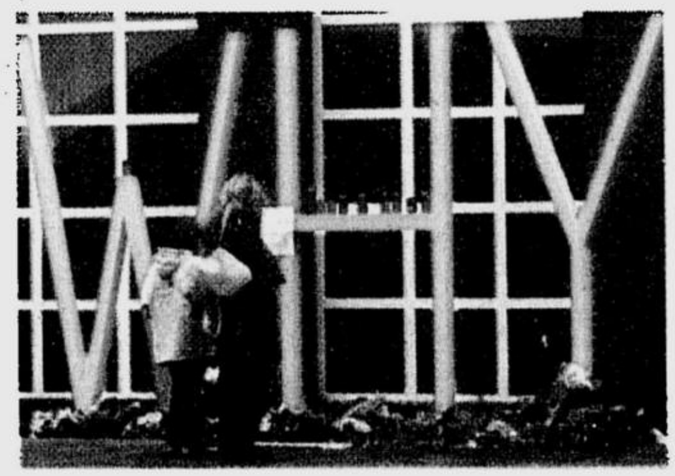
Prayers of Sympathy

NASEEB Bajwa, 2, stands while men pray during a Muslim prayer service in a Canadian mosque. Canadians have gathered from coast to coast to send a message of sympathy and friendship to their neighbors in the United States, a country still reeling from terrorist attacks that killed thousands. ***AP***



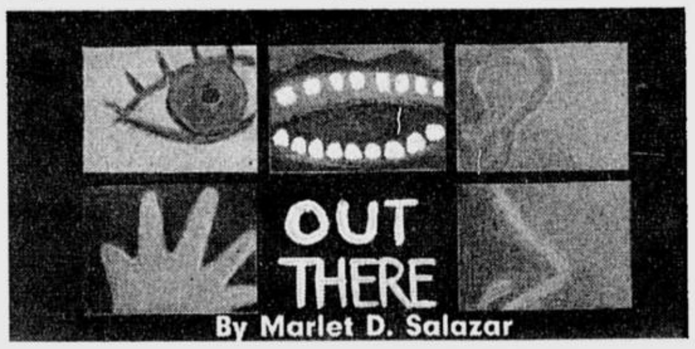
The Question

PEOPLE stand in front of huge letters reading "WHY" to commemorate the victims of the terrorist attacks against the United States at the wall of a community center in a town near Duesseldorf. Numerous countries all over the world expressed their sadness over the deaths in New York and Washington through prayer. ***AP***



Where is home now?

NOOR, an Afghan boy, holds his head outside a refugee camp in Pakistan. Officials fear that thousands of Afghan refugees will flee into Pakistan if the United States attacks Afghanistan in an attempt to flush out Osama bin Laden, named as a prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks against the United States. Refugees are people who seek safety in another country from war, persecution or natural disasters. ***AP***



Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Activities

ANIMAL BLESSING. If you're a pet lover, don't miss this! Oct. 4 is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi and the Philippine Animal Welfare Society has cooked up a real special activity for our pets. There will be a Mass on Oct. 7, that's a Sunday, at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway Centrum, New Manila, Quezon City, at 12 noon; and another one at the Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan, at 3 p.m. Bring your pets to any of the churches and have them blessed by a priest. At the Mt. Carmel Church pets will walk down the aisle and there'll be a special treat: a trained dog will carry a basketful of flowers during the offertory. Don't forget to put them in carriers or cages, or put on their leashes. Also it would really be great if you can come prepared with old newspapers and tissue paper for your pets. If your pets can't attend you can just bring their pictures. See you all there!

SCIENCE CLUB. The Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs invites all elementary and high school students to join the science club movement. PSYSC conducts annual interactive workshops, science camps and field trips all over the country that aims to promote public understanding of science, technology and environment. Call them up at 920-9561 and 920-8174 or write to 317 C. David's Place, Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Check out their website www.psysc.org. Deadline's on Oct. 31.

Contests

ON-THE-SPOT DRAWING. Check out the nearest Sacred Heart School in your area and join their Christmas Card Drawing contest: Forbes Makati, today at 3 p.m. call 840-5493; CAC Goodwill Bookstore, Glorietta Makati, Sept. 30, 3 p.m. call 893-9079; Malabon Branch Oct. 6, 9 p.m. call 362-3154.

Workshops

ART SESSIONS FOR FREE. Museo Pambata and Luntiang Daigdig Inc. are offering an art and painting course for free. The class is open to kids 7-12 years old and is held every Saturday at 2 p.m. Registration is required. Limited to 15 participants only. Call Dess at 523-1797 to 98.

MSA REVIEW CLASS. . .FOR FREE! If you are a graduating elementary student and wants to take an entrance test at the Philippine Science High School for the Arts, MSA is giving a free high school entrance exam review course free of charge. To register, present a letter from your school principal certifying your top standing in your class. Hurry, it is limited to 40 participants only! Deadline of registration is on Oct. 6 and review class begins Oct. 14. For more details call up 435-6062 or visit any MSA branch near you.

SCIENCE CAMP. Check out the Philippine Society of Youth Science Club's 6th National Children's Science Interactive Workshop. It will be held on Oct. 23-27 at Leyte Park Resort, Tacloban, Leyte. This year's theme is "The Earth: 75% Water, 100% Life!" This five-day science camp to be attended by 500 elementary students will showcase workshops, hands-on experimentation, games and other fun-filled activities designed to promote deeper appreciation for water ecosystems among elementary students. This activity will also include exposure trips on the historic and scenic spots of Leyte. For more info call up PSYSC at 920-8174 or 920-9561.

Hangout

STARLAND SKATING. Skaters, check out the new Starland's Skating Rink at the 4th level of Metropolis Star in Alabang. Enjoy the thrill of roller-skating inside an air-conditioned hub. Metropolis Star is located in Alabang South Superhighway, beside Alabang Duct.

Play

EL FILI. Gantimpala Theater stages Jose Rizal's "El Filibusterismo" at the Jaime Cardinal Sin Auditorium, Paco, Manila, today and tomorrow. All performances at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. "El Filibusterismo" stars Allan Paule, Kristine Arnaldo, Jojit Lorenzo, Perry Dizon and Bodjie Pascua. For details call up 899-5745, 896-3503 or 897-1533 and 895-8314. Send e-mail to gantimpala@pacific.net.ph or visit their website www.geocities.com/gantimpala.

Exhibit

INK WORKS AT THE MET. In celebration of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan's 10th year anniversary, the Metropolitan Museum of Manila will feature published and unpublished works of selected members of Ang Ink. You can catch their works until Oct. 6 at the Met Museum, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. It is open from Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For info call 523-7855.

HANDS-ON EXHIBIT. Weave colorful mats, shape pots with your own hands, listen to grandma's sweet lullabies, and have fun rediscovering the beauty of Filipino culture in "Iba't-ibang Kamay, Iisang Buhay...Filipino!" a Museo Pambata traveling exhibit sponsored by NCCA. You can catch the exhibit till tomorrow at the Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila. For info call up 523-1797 to 98.

Stuff

LISTEN AND LEARN. An entertaining teacher called Adam the Ant calls on his young friends to help teach the alphabet through a mixture of bright voices, lively songs and exciting characters. It's not a movie, it's the first locally produced learning alphabet cassette tape. This cassette tape accompanies the best-selling preschool book "God and Me in the World of Phonics." Grab your copies now at the nearest bookstore or call All Nations Publishing at 912-2445.

Cable Picks

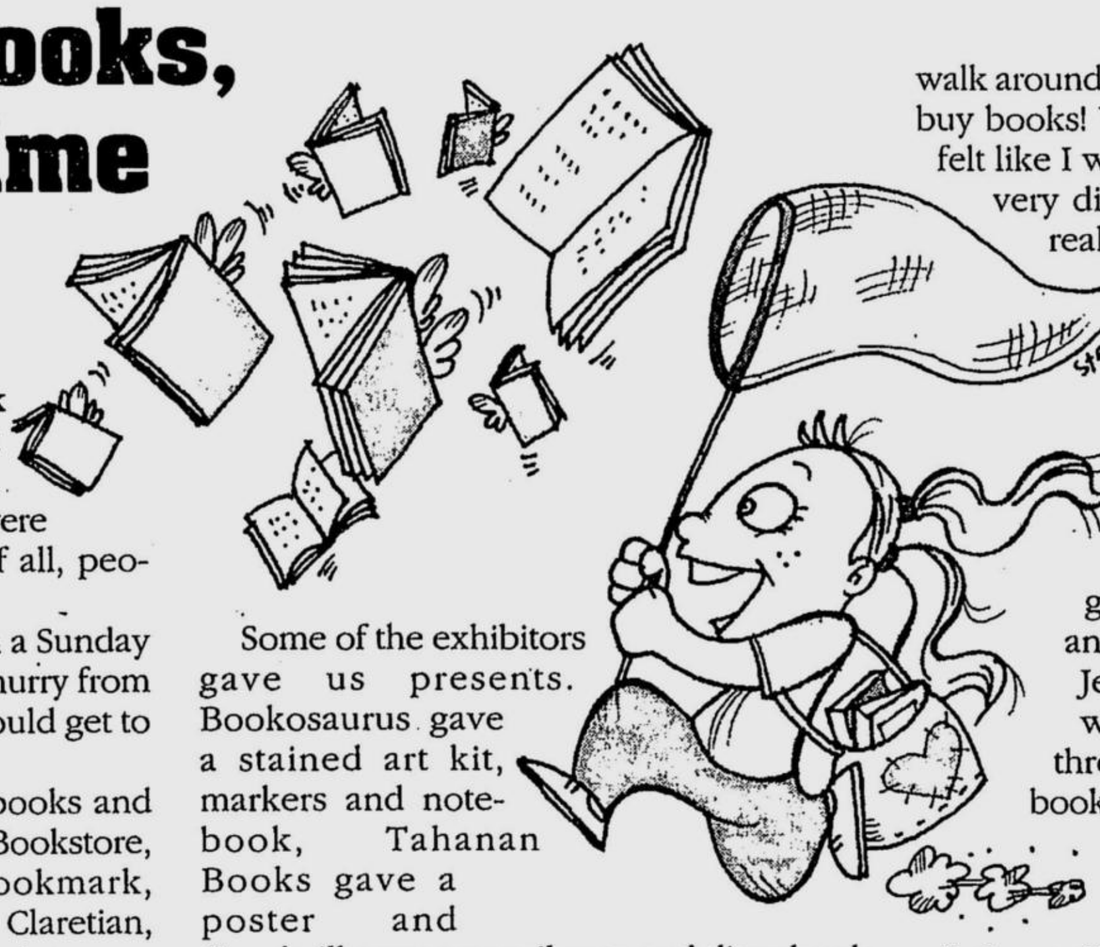
ANIMAL AMMO. Concealed behind murky swamp waters and teeming ocean depths, they creep up on their prey with the stillness of seasoned snipers. Those are the predators in waters: whale sharks, alligators, and crustaceans surprising their victims. Catch the action on Animal Planet's "Ammo—Snappers" tonight at 7.

IT'S SHARK WEEK...AGAIN! "Shark Weekend" blasts out of the water and back onto television screens beginning today with an event overflowing with exciting shark action, up-close shark adventures and a shark show that leaves viewers awestruck. Tune in to Discovery Channel tonight at 8 p.m. and watch the other features of "Shark Weekend" tomorrow same time.

WASTE WATCHERS. Problem with garbage here in the Philippines? Why don't you watch "Waste Watchers" and follow the conservation efforts of people from United Kingdom to Pakistan. See how other countries find ways to reduce their waste on National Geographic Channel's "Waste Watchers" tomorrow at 8 p.m.

So Many Books, So Little Time

BY MA. MONICA C. LUALHATI
JI CORRESPONDENT
ST. BENEDICT COLLEGE



THE 12TH PHILIPPINE Book Fair was held on Sept. 1-Sept. 9 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall in Edsa, Mandaluyong City. There were lots of books, booths and most of all, people!

I went there with my parents on a Sunday and I was so surprised. We had to hurry from one booth to another so that we could get to see all of them.

I was on the lookout for storybooks and craft books. We went to Goodwill Bookstore, Bookosaurus, Bookwagon, Bookmark, Tahanan Books, Golden Books, Claretian, Paulines, Jesuit Music Ministry and a lot more. We even saw the INQUIRER Booth but since it was lunchtime, there was no one there. I had the booth to myself and posed for some photos too.

All the sellers were friendly and were glad to show you their stuff. They also offered discounts. Some books were even belowP50.

Some of the exhibitors gave us presents. Bookosaurus gave a stained art kit, markers and notebook, Tahanan Books gave a poster and Goodwill gave a pencil case and diary book. From Bookmark, we received a poster, bookmarks, a notepad and a desk calendar while the Jesuits gave candles. We got some copies of this funny book, "How Tsinoy Are You?" and they gave us a book on Princess Diana for free.

So what do you do at a book fair? You walk around a lot, meet people and of course, buy books! With all the books around me, I felt like I was Monica in Bookworld. It was very difficult to choose which books I really wanted, even if some were really very cheap. I decided to get craft books on papier mâché, print making and jewelry making. I also got books of Abby Hayes, Rockets' World and the Olsen twins that I've been looking for. Not to be outdone, my mom got cookbooks, religious books, and lots of tapes and CDs from the Jesuit Ministry. My dad got crosswords and the Tsinoy book. The three of us decided to share a new book—"Inside Manila with Kids"—that we found at Bookmark.

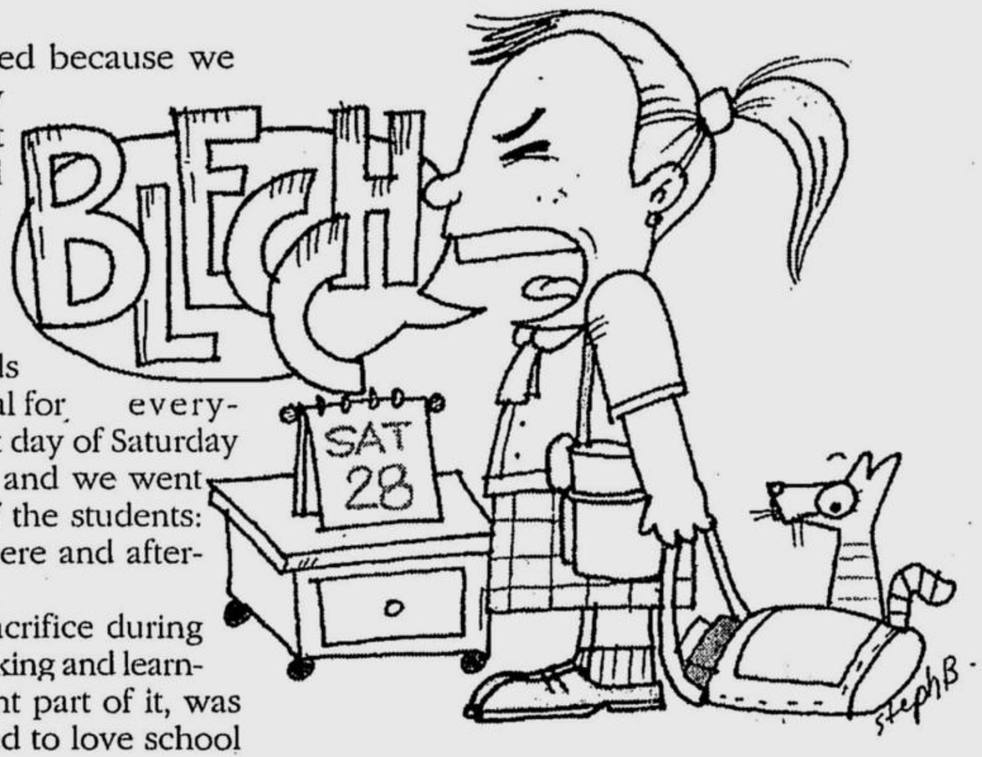
We ended our trip with tired feet, not enough hands to carry all the stuff that we got, and excited to get home and read. It was lots of fun, especially for a bookworm like me. My parents must be glad that this happens only once a year. As for me, I don't know which book to read first, what with all the books that I bought. Like I said when I got home—So many books, so little time!

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name, school and contact number and be sure to write ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER on top of your article. See YOUR news articles on the Junior Inquirer!

When Saturday School Became Cool

BY JOAN CAMILLE P. ILAGAN
JI CORRESPONDENT
PARAÑAQUE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL



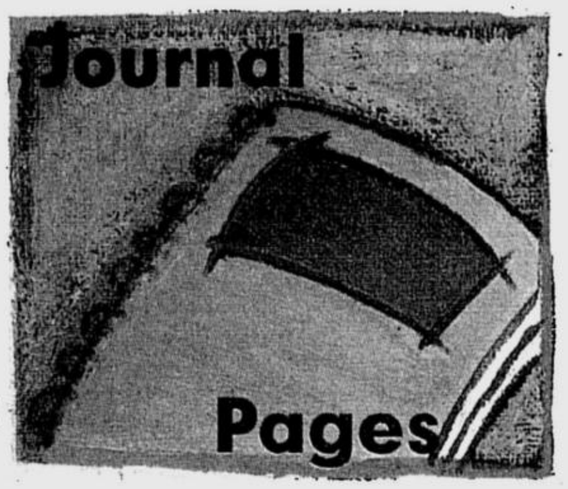
FOR MOST kids, Saturday school has got to be the worst thing ever invented for the schoolyear. Maybe because it's a waste of a very good and valuable weekend? But not to some students of Parañaque Science High School, who would sacrifice a few Saturdays just to learn some new mathematical stuff.

The icky Saturdays started on July 28 and ended last Sept. 8. At first we didn't like the idea of having school on Saturdays because it was the only time for us to catch some little rest and relaxation. But we tried it out, loved it and made the best of it.

During the first day of Saturday class, we felt like we would on any first day of school: frightened. We were scared because we had to face another new teacher. Who knew what kind of teacher he would turn out to be? But after several Saturdays we loved him. He was the opposite of very strict.

Since we became friends with him, it was only natural for everyone to party during the last day of Saturday school. We played games and we went to the nearest hang-out of the students: SM Sucat. We ate lunch there and afterwards went to the arcades.

Of course we had to sacrifice during those Saturdays of hard thinking and learning, but the most important part of it, was we had fun and we learned to love school any day.



My Class, the Terrific Class

BY LIZZIE LECAROZ
PAREF-WOODROSE SCHOOL
ALABANG

MY class is better than the whole school. But we're noisy sometimes. We also participate anyway. I sometimes feel we're better than other sections.

I like going to school because we can learn nice, heartwarming love stories. I also like it when the class is funny.

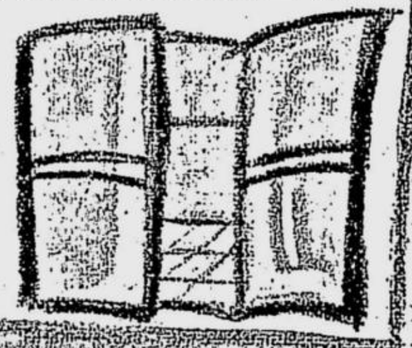
My favorite teachers are Ms Sulit, Ms Loviña, Ms Herrera, Ms Legaspi, Ms Castellano. The other teachers are okay, too.

We're all 35 students in my class and even though we're that many, we all help each other out. Is your class as terrific as mine?

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Good Work

DEAR Editor,

I think you're doing great with Junior Inquirer! I want to suggest that you include more interesting games, puzzles and interesting facts about the Philippines.

Keep up the good work!—**JHEN TOBIAS**, Centro Escolar University

Hurrah for a Miriam Teacher

THERE are many different kinds of teachers in this world. But one teacher stands out from the rest: Ms Kristine Lesaca.

Ms Lesaca is a language teacher and our very own homeroom adviser. She cares for each and every student in our class. She always shares her childhood stories and experiences in some of her lessons. She is a very fun and kind teacher. But she is also firm.

She encourages us to be creative. She lets us feel free to express our feelings in our essays. She has a great sense of humor. We just want to say: thank you! Thank you for being our teacher. Thank you for caring so much for us. You are a part of our life.—**GRADE 6- KAYUMANGGI**, Miriam College, Quezon City

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Junior Inquirer (JI) welcomes your views, suggestions, essays, short stories and poems. All contributions must be typewritten double-spaced on short bond paper. Contributions without a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned.

Please send your letters & contributions to:
the Junior Inquirer Editor,
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Makati Central Post Office,
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Philippines

Si Pedro at ang

KUWENTO NI JOJI KLARISSE L. MENDOZA
GUHIT NI STEPH BRAVO

SI PEDRO ay isang batang napakahilig sa mga dagat at iba pang anyong tubig. Araw-araw, pumupunta siya sa isang ilog sa likod ng kanilang kubo. Dito siya naglalaro o kaya naman ay gumagawa ng takdang-aralin.

Isang araw, habang nasa eskwelahan si Pedro, may magandang balita ang kanyang guro. Isang *field trip* ang magaganap sa susunod na linggo. Pupunta ang klase sa dagat! Halos tumalon-talon na si Pedro sa tuwa. Pagdating sa bahay, sinabi kaagad ito ni Pedro sa kanyang ina na si Aling Maria. Natuwa rin sa balita si Aling Maria dahil matagal na rin naman siyang kinukulit ni Pedro na mamasyal sila sa dagat. Heto't makakapamasyal na rin si Pedro.

SA ARAW ng *field trip*, hindi mapakali si Pedro. Para siyang kiti-kiti. Matagal din siyang naghanda at naghintay para sa *field trip* nila. Dala niya lahat ng pinapadala ng guro nila. Nagdala rin siya ng isang laruang bangka.

Naunang natapos si Pedro sa pagkain. Agad niyang inilabas ang kanyang laruan. Ipinatong niya ito sa tubig at nagsimula na itong gumalaw dahil sa pag-agos ng tubig. Sa kasusunod, hindi namalayan ni Pedro na dumidilim na at naiwan na siya ng kanyang mga kamag-aral. .

Patuloy siyang naglakad, nanginginig, natatakot. Biglang may narinig siyang mga boses—kakaibang mga boses. Nilapitan niya ang pinanggalingan ng mga ito. At sa may dulo ng dagat, isang kabigla-biglang bagay ang gumulat kay Pedro. Tatlong sirena ang nasa dagat! Guni-guni niya lamang ba ang mga ito?

"Ay, may bata o!" ang sigaw ng isang sirenang asul ang buntot.

"Ang *cute*!" ang sabi naman ng isang may luntiang buntot.

"Ganyan pala ang mga itsura nila," ang singit naman ng pinakamagandang sirena, may ginintuang buntot naman siya. Tinawag nila si Pedro upang makisalo sa kanilang kasiyahan. Agad namang tumalon si Pedro at nakipaglaro sa mga sirena. Sa gitna ng pagsasaya, naalala niya ang kanyang ina. Ano na kaya ang ginagawa niya ngayon? Siguro nag-aalala na siya. Naku, siguro kailangan nang umuwi ni Pedro!

MATAPOS makapagpaalam sa mga sirena, patuloy na naglakad si Pedro. Sa kaiisip tungkol sa paglalaro kasama ang mga sirena, hindi namalayan ni Pedro na nakapasok na pala siya sa isang malaki at madilim na gubat. Hindi siya nawalan ng pag-asa at patuloy pa rin siyang naglakad. Sa wakas, napagod din siya at naupo.

"Siguro dito na lang ako magpapalipas ng gabi," ang sabi niya. "Sana mahanap na nila ako bukas, sana. . ." at nakatulog na ang pagod na bata.

Sa gitna ng mga panaginip na magkikita na sila ng kanyang ina, isang matinis na boses ang gumising kay Pedro.

"Pedro,Pedro, gumising ka, kami ito. . ." ang sabi ng tinig. Napilitan niyang imulat ang kanyang mga mata at, sa kanyang kabiglaan, ang mga sirena ay nandoon! Lumulutang at tila ilusyon lamang! Ngunit paano nakapunta dito ang mga sirena?

Itinanong ito ni Pedro sa mga sirena. Agad naman siyang sinagot ng mga ito.

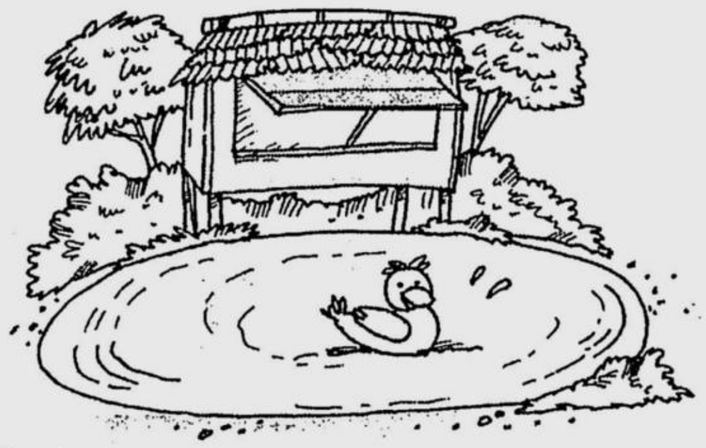
"Sa inyong mundo, hindi natural ang mga sirena, hindi ba? Ngunit sa aming mundo, natural lang ang mga ito. At siyempre, mayroon ding mga hindi natural na nilalang. Sila ay ang mga sirenang may kapangyarihan, at kami iyon," ang sabi nila.

"Kahit anong gusto namin ay matutupad, pati ang paglilipat ng isang nilalang mula sa isang lugar papunta sa iba. "

Ang sagot na ito ay nakapagbigay kay Pedro ng ngiti sa kanyang labi. Alam niyang ililipat siya ng mga sirena mula sa gubat na ito papunta sa kanilang bahay.

At sa inaasahan ni Pedro, nagsimulang umikot ang mundo. Ang kanyang utak ay nahulog sa isang napakalalim na tulog, at parang napakahaba ng paglalakbay na ito.

NAGISING si Pedro. Madaming tao ang nakatingin sa kanya, nakangiti. Nakita din niya ang kanyang ina na lumuluha sa tuwa.



"...sa may dulo ng dagat, isang kabigla-biglang bagay ang gumulat kay Pedro. Tatlong sirena ang nasa dagat! Guni-guni niya lamang ba ang mga ito?"

mga Sirena

FOR By KIDS

Nang makarating sa bahay, isinalaysay ng kanyang ina ang nangyari at kung paano siya nakaabot sa lupa.

"Ginising lang nila ako, sabi nila e andon ka daw. Sabi ko ay parating na ako, kaya't ako'y pumanaog sa baba. Oo nga, andon ka, nakalutang sa ilog sa likod ng ating kubo. Akala ko naman, patay ka na. Ngunit salamat sa Diyos namulat din ang iyong mga mata."

"Ay, salamat po Inay," ang sagot ni Pedro nang malaman niyang ganoon pala siya kamahal ng kanyang ina. "Salamat po sa pagliligtas niyo sa akin. Pero Inay, may sasabihin lang po ako sa inyo. Inay, nakakakita po ako ng, ng mga, s-sirena."

At hayun, ikinuwento niya ang tungkol sa mga sirenang ito.

"Sirena?" ang tanong ng kanyang ina. "Haay, halina nga't makapaghapunan na, baka gutom lang iyan."

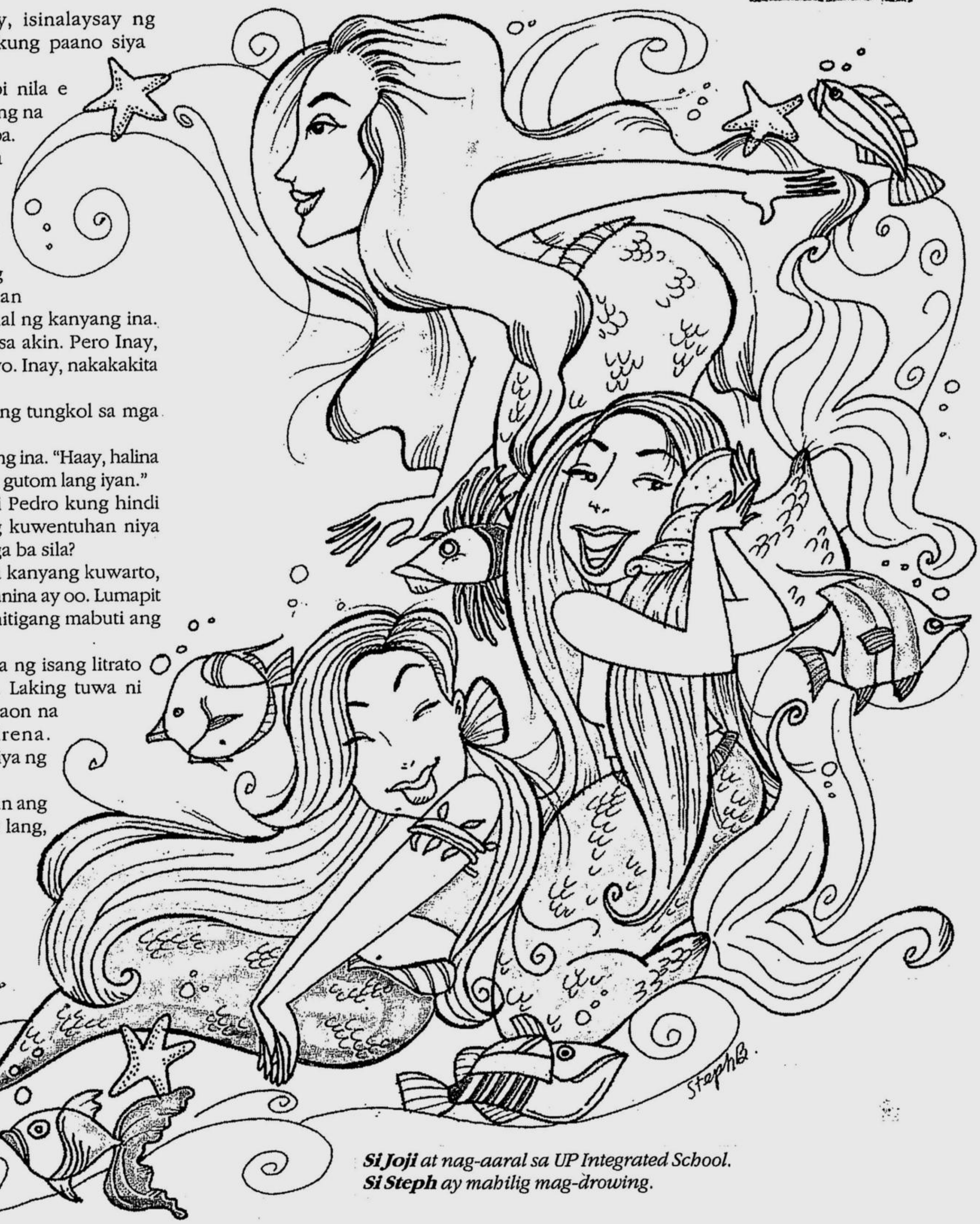
Habang kumakain, iniisip ni Pedro kung hindi maniniwala ang lahat ng taong kuwentuhan niya tungkol sa kanila. Pero totoo nga ba sila?

Nang makapasok si Pedro sa kanyang kuwarto, ang sagot na kaagad sa tanong kanina ay oo. Lumapit si Pedro sa kanyang kama at tinitigang mabuti ang isang kahong nakapatong rito.

Binuksan niya ito at nakakita ng isang litrato niya kasama ang maga sirena. Laking tuwa ni Pedro, ito ang unang pagkakataon na nakakita siya ng mga sirena. Masuwerte siya, nakagawa pa siya ng mga kaibigan.

Gusto mo din bang maranasan ang nangyari kay Pedro? Mag-ingat lang, baka ito magkatotoo.

Wakas.



Si Joji *at nag-aaral sa UP Integrated School.*
Si Steph *ay mahilig mag-drowing.*

The Class Jester is a Closet Poet

Ateneo Grade School's Mike Totanes waits for inspiration

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD Miguel Totanes is your all-around live wire, hobbyist and class jester. When he's not playing billiards or chess, he's huffing and puffing in a game of basketball or soccer. And because he can make his classmates smile, snicker and guffaw at a joke or an antic, he was voted the friendliest guy in class. What they all don't know is that he's a bit of a bard.

Mike, as pals call him, writes poems! "I think most people won't believe that one of my dreams is to become a poet someday," he says. "My friends think that I'm too funny to be associated with something as serious as poetry."

But Mike has written lots of poems about love. Most of them are for his mom and dad. Some he composed for his friends, especially those he misses and has not seen for a long time. Of course, he's also written poems for girls and funny stuff.

What funny stuff? "Like really bad jokes," laughs Mike.

We probably shouldn't be surprised why Mike has the soul of a poet. He's a jester all right. But he's a good friend to his pals too. Whenever he would see his best friend, schoolmate and neighbor Sean glumly looking out his window from across the street, Mike would call him up and invite him over for some fun games. He also stayed with a sick neighbor who got stung by a bee until she got well.

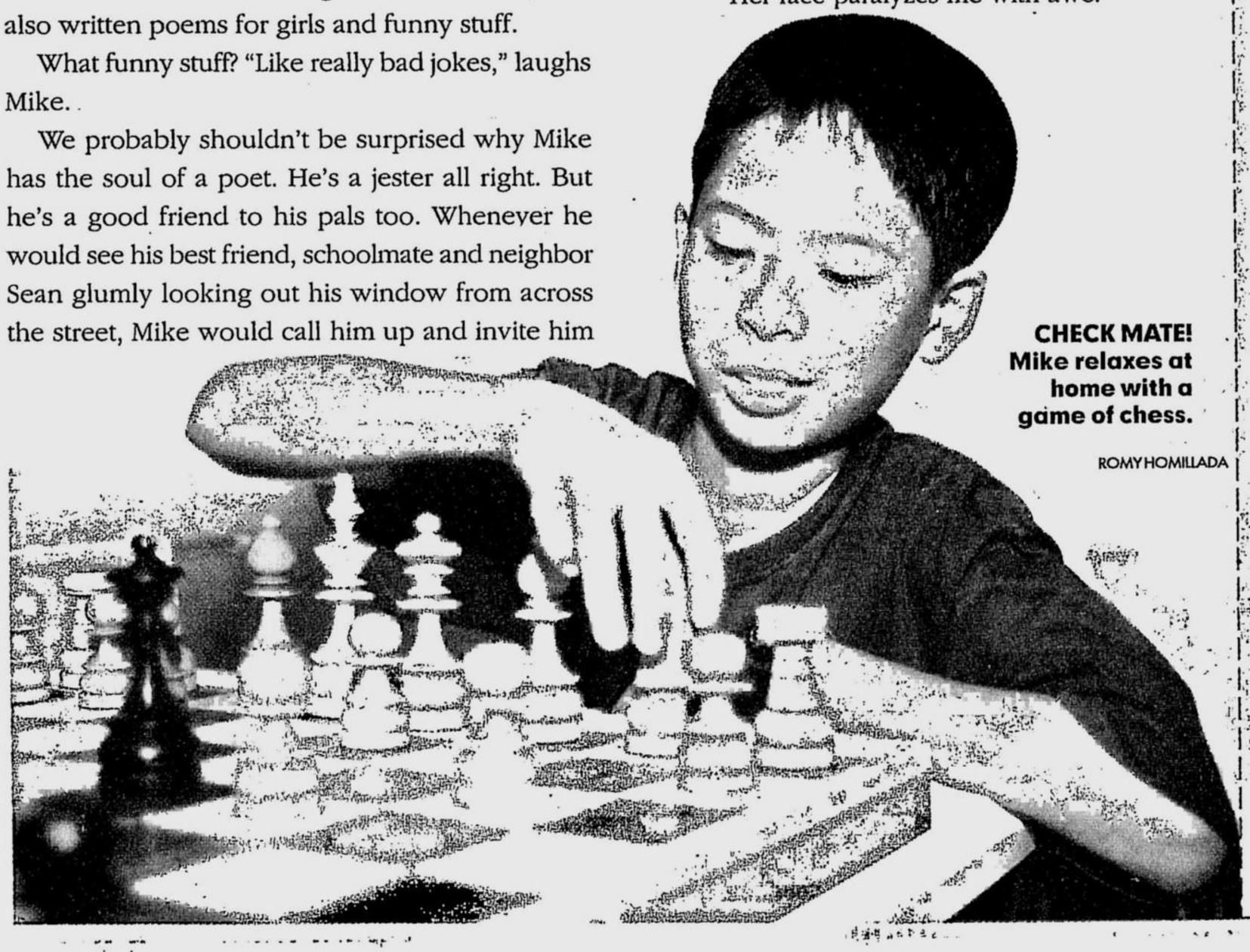
"I really regret not having the time to think about poems these past few months because of homework and other school activities," he adds. "But I'm sure that inspiration will strike me soon and who knows, maybe my secret dream would just come true!"

Margaux Ortiz

Love of my life
By Mike Totanes

The love of my life makes me smile.
Like a heart that makes me fly.
It makes me feel right like a picture in the night.

Her heart makes me open
To her truth as my friend
Her face paralyzes me with awe.



CHECK MATE! Mike relaxes at home with a game of chess.

ROMY HOMILLADA

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kid 'r' rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____

She/he lives at

_____

and studies at

_____

Her/his contact number is:

_____

Sender's Name:

_____

Sender's Age & School:

_____

Sender's Address:

_____

Sender's Contact No.

A Young Teacher's Mission

BY MARGAUX ORTIZ

SITTING in volunteer teacher Adrian Opinion's class is like being on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire!" He asks you if you're answer is indeed your final answer and when you suddenly get cold feet, you can call on your lifelines to help you out.

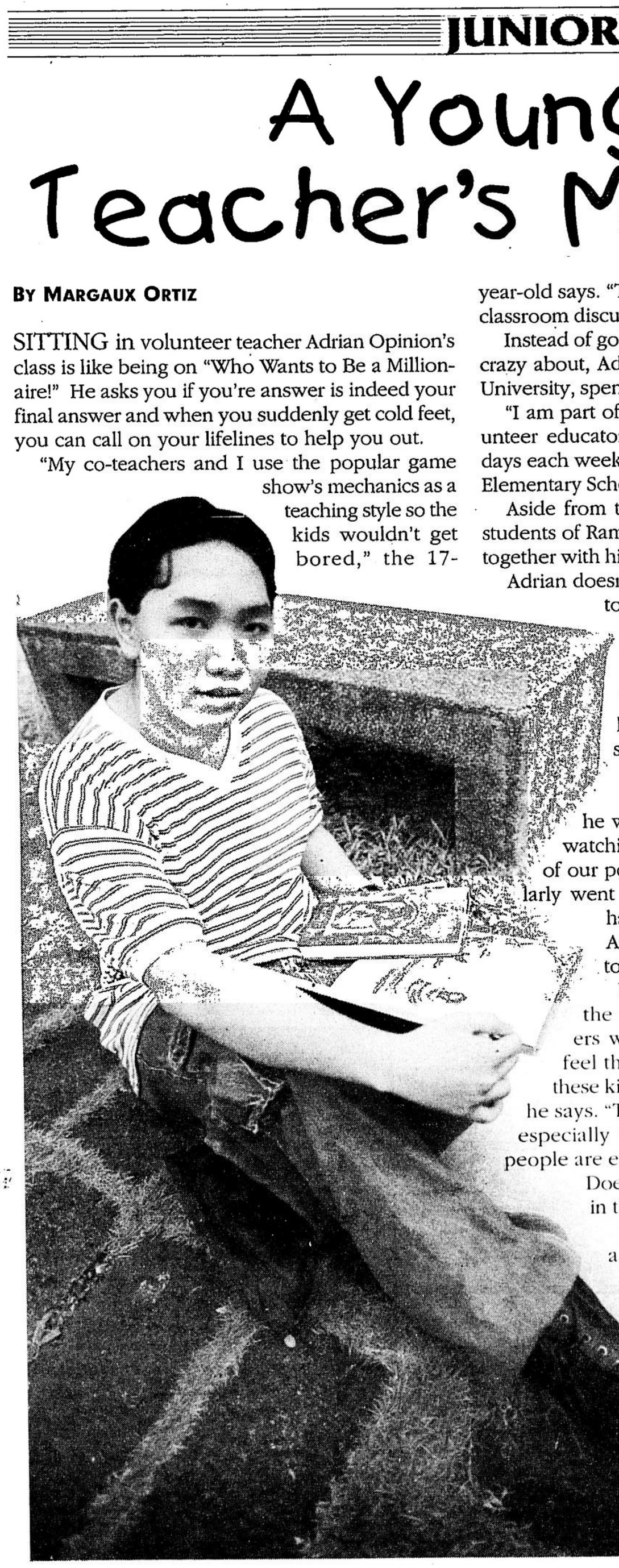
"My co-teachers and I use the popular game show's mechanics as a teaching style so the kids wouldn't get bored," the 17-year-old says. "That way they could participate in classroom discussions and learn more."

Instead of going gaga over things teenagers are crazy about, Adrian, a sophomore at De La Salle University, spends his time as a volunteer teacher.

"I am part of "Evolve," an organization of volunteer educators," he says. "We set aside a few days each week to teach Grade 1 students at Libis Elementary School."

Aside from that, Adrian also teaches Grade 6 students of Ramon Magsaysay Elementary School together with his other schoolmates."

Adrian doesn't mind if he has to give up going to the mall or attending parties to teach kids. "It's fun being with children. They are always enthusiastic and eager to learn," he says. "I especially feel good when the kids call me *kuya*. It's hard not to smile when I'm around them."



A Special Task

Adrian realized his passion when he was still 10 years old. "I remember watching CNN and seeing the condition of our poor countrymen. My heart particularly went out to those children who didn't have any money to go to school," Adrian relates. "I realized that I had to do something meaningful."

He looks forward to that part of the week when he could give to others what he has learned in school. "I feel that it's only right that I share with these kids the kind of education I receive," he says. "There is really a great need for this especially with the continuing poverty our people are experiencing."

Does he see himself still teaching kids in the future?

"Of course! The feeling of giving a part of yourself to others is indescribable," says Adrian. "Knowing that these kids learned something from you is a reward in itself."

FUN. Adrian's students always have fun with his "game show" teaching style.

CJ BUNOAN

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

*Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, **YOU'LL** get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____.
He/She is ____ years old and is my _____.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1) _____;
2) _____;
3) _____;
4) _____;
and
5) _____.

My nominee lives at _____
_____.
Give him/her a call at _____
_____ or send him/her an e-mail at _____.
By the way, I'm _____
_____.
I'm _____ years old.
My address is
_____.
You may call me at
_____.

Which Word?

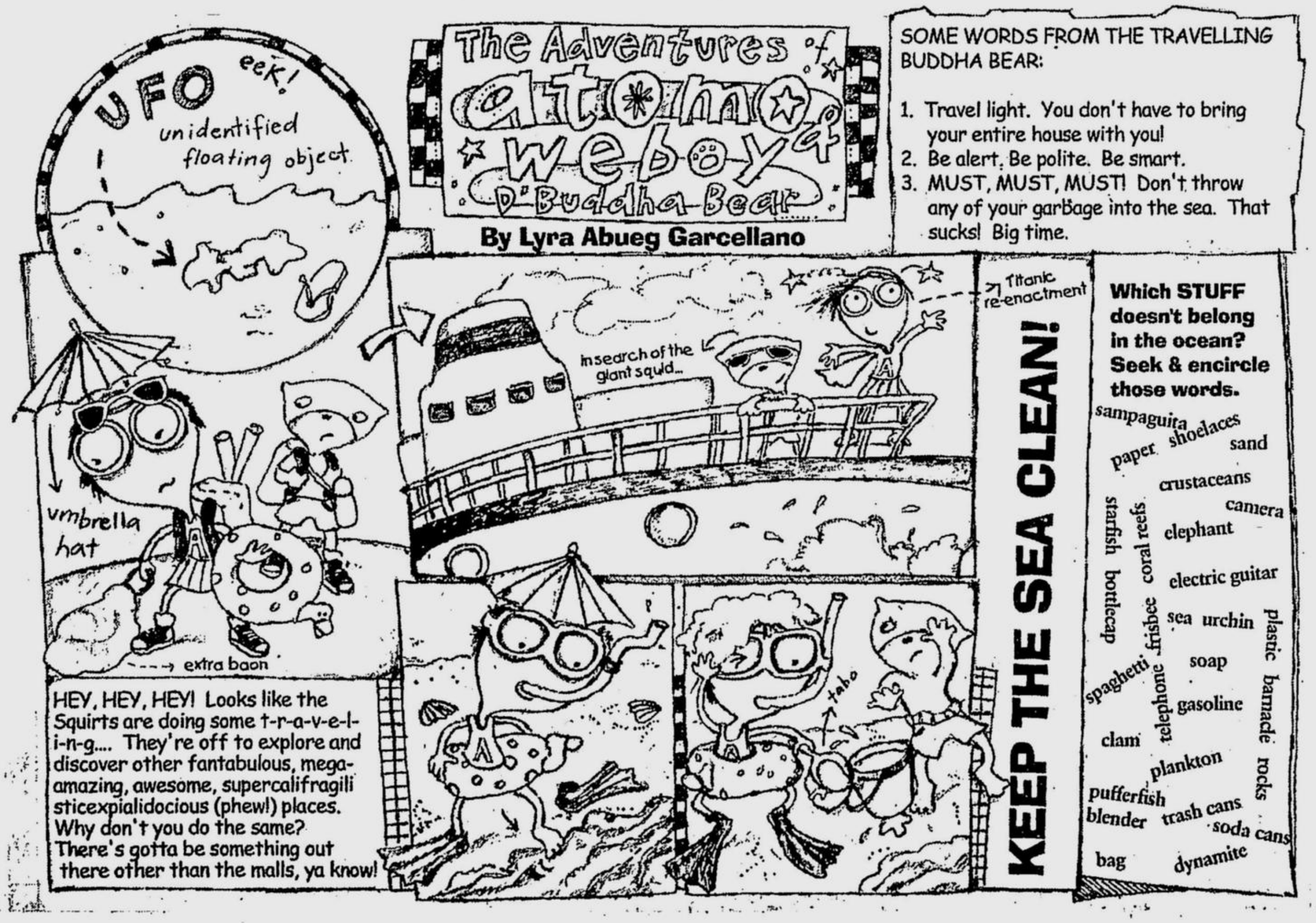
WE'VE listed 15 pairs of commonly confused English words. In each number, would you know which word fits the given description?

1. *The seat of government*
   ● capital ● capitol
2. *To influence*
   ● affect ● effect
3. *To draw or bring out*
   ● elicit ● illicit
4. *Important in history*
   ● historic ● historical
5. *To mean*
   ● denote ● connote
6. *To praise*
   ● complement ● compliment
7. *An unreal impression*
   ● allusion ● illusion
8. *Relating to language*
   ● oral ● verbal
9. *To leave for another place of resident*
   ● emigrate ● immigrate
10. *Unfavorable*
    ● adverse ● averse
11. *To set a value on*
    ● appraise ● apprise
12. *Ready to take place*
    ● eminent ● imminent
13. *Innocent*
    ● ingenious ● ingenuous
14. *Stretched out face down*
    ● prostate ● prostrate
15. *Separate, distinct*
    ● discrete ● discreet

Answers:

1. **Capital** (*Capitol* is the building where a legislature meets)
2. **Affect** (*Effect*: to bring about)
3. **Elicit** (*Illicit*: illegal)
4. **Historic** (*Historical*: relating to history)
5. **Denote** (*Connote*: to suggest beyond the explicit meaning)
6. **Compliment** (*Complement*: to make complete)
7. **Illusion** (*Allusion*: an indirect reference)
8. **Verbal** (*Oral*: spoken, as opposed to written)
9. **Emigrate** (*Immigrate*: to *come* to another place of resident)
10. **Adverse** (*Averse*: opposed)
11. **Appraise** (*Apprise*: to inform)
12. **Imminent** (*Eminent*: standing out)
13. **Ingenuous** (*Ingenious*: clever)
14. **Prostrate** (*Prostate*: relating to the prostate gland)
15. **Discrete** (*Discreet*: prudent)

Ratings:



Dog Tired

(from page 1)

set," said Mary Flood, whose black Labrador retriever Jake is among more than 200 search dogs brought in by US rescue teams.

Flood is part of a team of 62 rescue workers accompanied by four dogs. Switching off between day and night shifts, they stay at the Jacob Javits Convention Center, where the dogs get daily shampoos and massages.

Veterinarians from the US Public Health Service treat any dogs suffering from abrasions, dehydration and eye trauma.

A sign there reads: "For man's best friend, who is fighting man's worst enemy. God bless you."

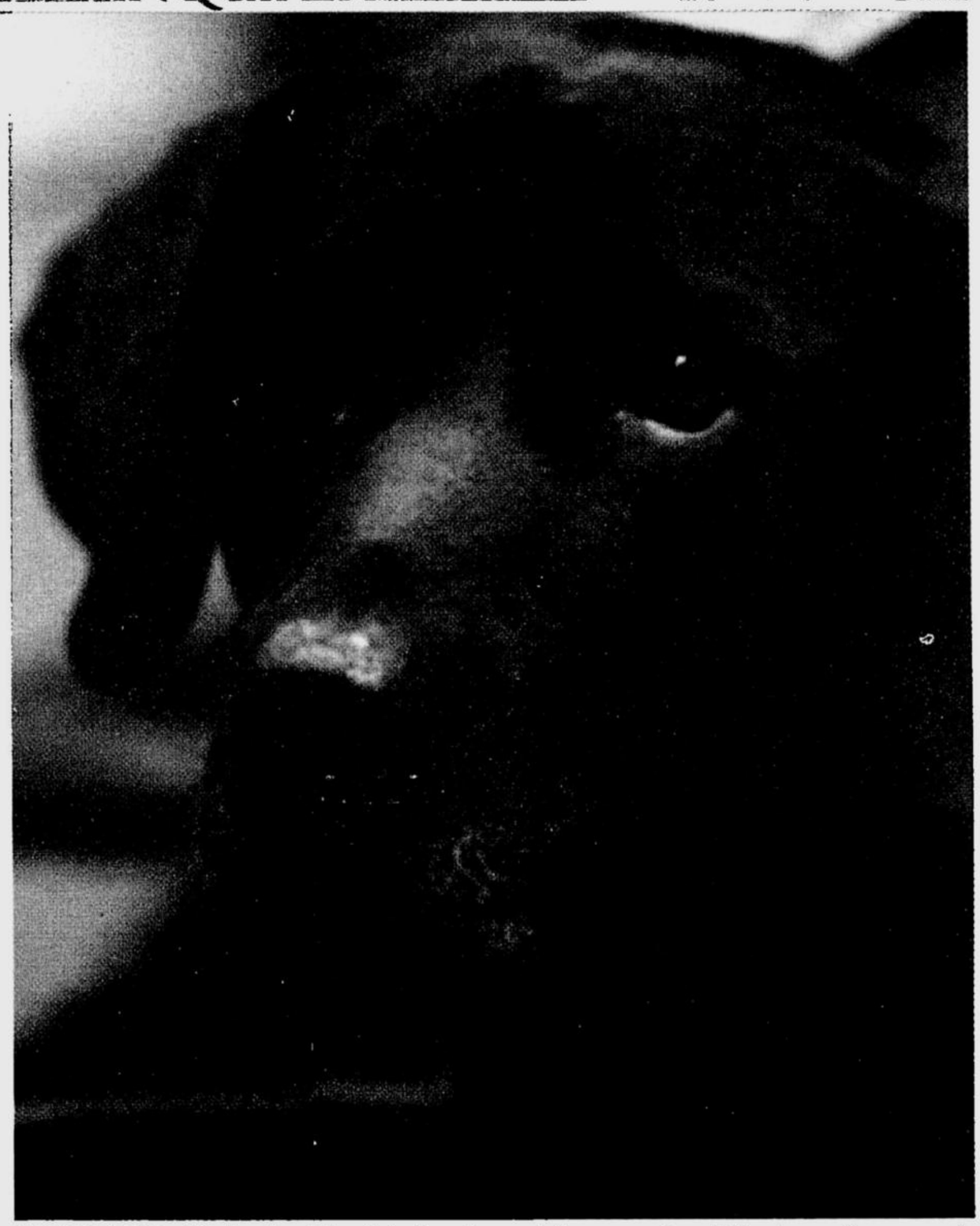
Flood adopted Jake about five years ago after he was found abandoned on a street, a puppy with a broken leg and a dislocated hip.

Now, he's a muscular, 80-pound animal trained in search and rescue. Jake passed his search and rescue certification exam in Virginia last June.

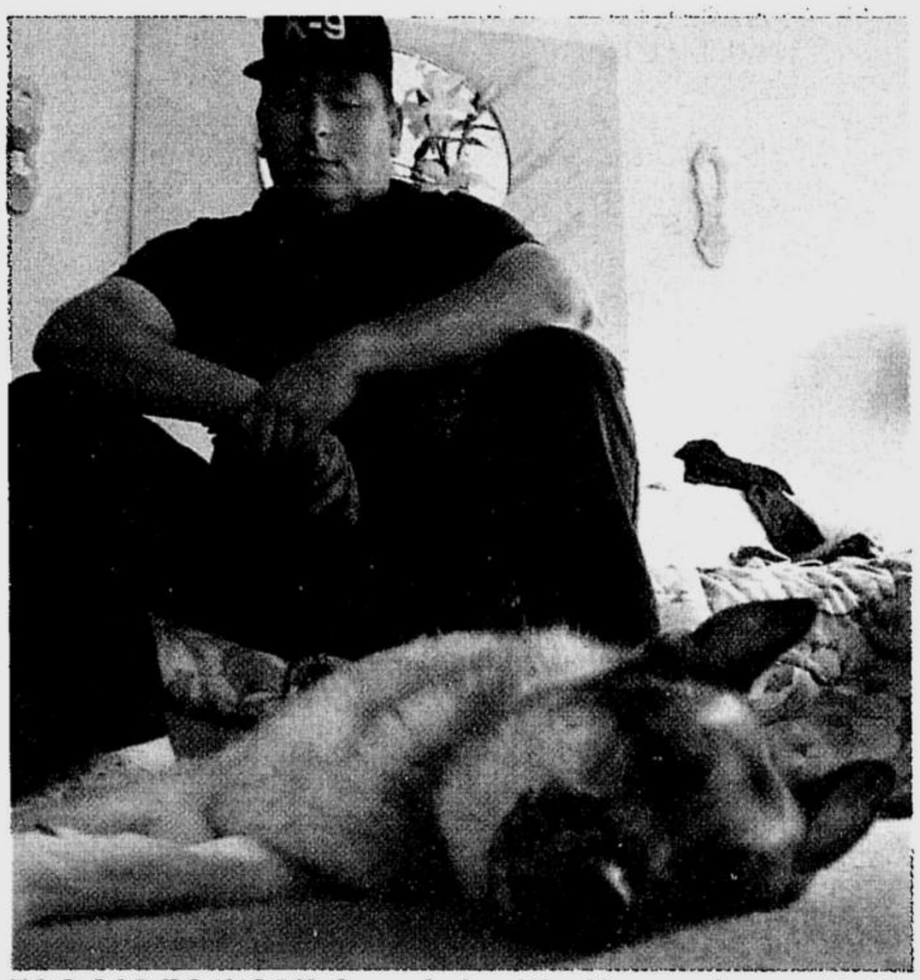
"He's better than me," said Flood, 48, who works as an executive for a Utah investment firm.

Each morning now, Flood and Jake fall asleep on the same cot. She listens to CDs of Mozart and Handel.

The American Red Cross has advised team members should stage live search exercises, allowing the dogs to make successful rescues to renew their enthusiasm and boost their spirits. ***AP***



NOBLE DOG. "Jake," a black Labrador retriever rests at the base for search and rescue teams in New York. Jake was once an injured and abandoned puppy. Now he's a healthy dog whose job is to help rescue people. AP



TOO SAD TO WORK. Search dog Worf is seen here with his human rescue team partner Mike Owens at their home in Ohio. The 12-year-old German shepherd became so depressed after only three hours of work at the site of the World Trade Center that he had to be retired from search and rescue duty. Owens said Worf shut down the first day after helping locate the body of a missing New York City firefighter. AP

A DIFFERENT TREAT. Jake receives a massage, from Jan Price, left, as his rescue partner Mary Flood looks on. US veterinarians are on stand by to attend to search dogs injured from rescue efforts. AP

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

RP lacks planes to evacuate Pinoys

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS Sunday

SEPTEMBER 30, 2001 ★ 60 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 294

IN *Sunday* LIFESTYLE

- Rizal would have bargain-hunted at Dapitan tiangge too / C1
- Flower power center of Manila / C6
- Divi is still where it's at/ D1

Name that plane

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MABALACAT, Pampanga—A new pastime is sweeping this town of more than 179,000 people. It's called "Name that Plane!"

NAME/ A5

HISTORY IN MAKING

Estrada plunder trial a milestone in nation's war on corruption

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

DISGRACED ex-President Joseph Estrada will be "bodily carried" to court if he refuses to attend the formal start tomorrow of his trial for plunder, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said yesterday.

The trial will mark the first time a Philippine president is tried for plunder, an offense that is defined as a series of criminal acts resulting in at least P50 million in illegally acquired wealth, and that carries a maximum penalty of death.

The Associated Press also quoted Desierto as saying that the plunder trial would serve as a milestone in the country's anti-corruption fight and show the world that Filipinos could run their government democratically and cleanly.

Desierto said the security detail of Estrada and his son Jinggoy had no choice but to transport them from their quarters at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center to the courtroom of Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., chair of the Sandiganbayan's third division. Both the hospital and the anti-graft court are in Quezon City.

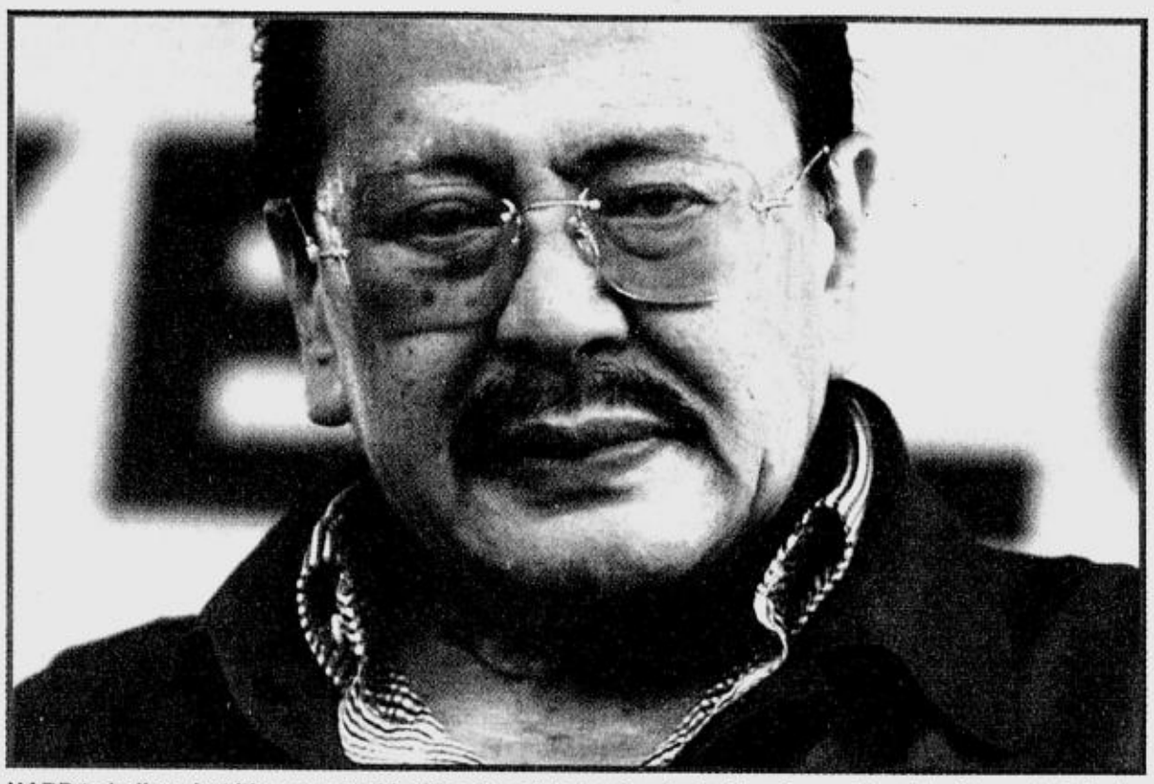
"The (police) personnel do not need (the Estradas') consent. The court ordered so," he said.

Desierto, the lead prosecutor in the trial, filed plunder and other criminal complaints against the Estradas and lawyer Edward Serapio on April 4. It took almost six months before the trial could be scheduled because of numerous motions and petitions filed by the defense team before both the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court.

Estrada, 64, who spent a total of 31 months as president, has denied any wrongdoing.

The prosecution panel, which includes Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, will present a total of 35 witnesses against Estrada and his

HISTORY/ A16



HARD to believe but it's come to this: The day of reckoning is nigh for former President Joseph Estrada. VAL HANDUMON

'Millionaire' living up to its name

BY LEAH SALTERIO

THIS is the one television show that has busted the niche-marketing concept. It is watched from the hovels of Payatas to the mansions of Ayala Alabang.

It has also broken records as the show with the highest commercial load today. Earning about P1.2 million in advertising revenues per show, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," which airs five times a week on IBC-13, certainly lives up to its name.

With P2 million to give away, it is also the TV show with the highest cash prize.

"Millionaire" became a runaway hit in its first season. It's turning a year old only on Nov.13.

According to the most recent TV survey of AGB Philippines, "Millionaire" posted a 25-percent average rating on the primetime slot.

At one point, "Millionaire"

MILLIONAIRE/ A16

Bush thanks RP for anti-money laundering law

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA, ARMAND N. NOCUM AND VOLT CONTRETRAS

PHILIPPINE authorities now have the means to choke off the financial lifelines of terrorists and drug lords.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday signed into law a bill aimed at cracking down on money laundering and ridding the local banking system of its image as a haven of dirty money.

In a brief ceremony at Malacañang, Ms Macapagal conveyed US President George W. Bush's message of gratitude to the Philippine Congress that hammered out the bill during marathon sessions in a matter of weeks.

"(He) thanks us all for the broad and bipartisan support . . . (in) the international war against terrorism," she said.

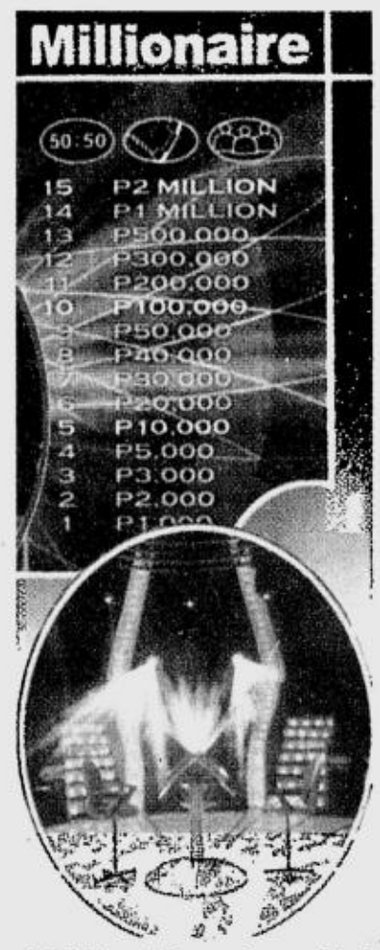
The Senate and the House of Representatives separately ratified the final version of the bill just hours before it was sent to Malacañang for Ms Macapagal's signature at about 6 p.m.

"We have criminalized money laundering in support of the major global campaign against the evil empire of the narcotic syndicates and terrorists," House Speaker Jose de Venecia said.

Republic Act No. 9160, otherwise known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, makes it a crime to transact through the banking system money in excess of P4 million representing proceeds from 14 specific crimes.

These are kidnapping for ransom; drug trafficking; graft and corruption; plunder; robbery and extortion; "jueteng" and "masiao;" piracy on the high seas; qualified theft; swindling, smuggling, cyber-

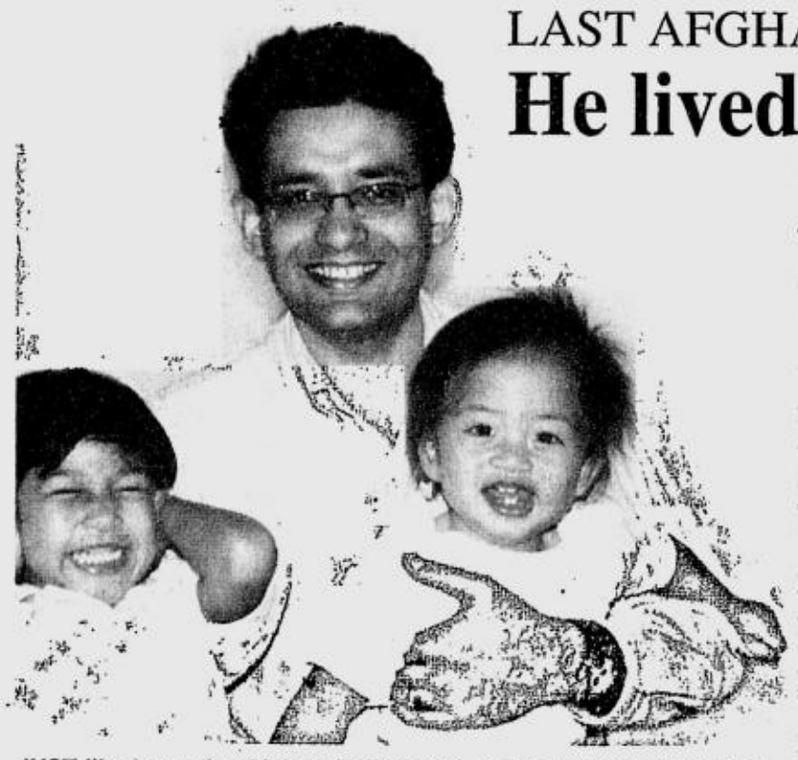
BUSH/ A16



LOCAL edition of a global success, the TV show is breaking records.

LAST AFGHAN IN RP

He lived in Forbes Park, studied in UST



JUST like home for Afghan, Najib Habib, when he visited here last June and played with Hanna and Quincy Besa, the children of his best Filipino buddy, TJ O. Besa III.

BY JOAN ORENDAIN

THE LAST Afghan registered in the Philippines is a good Pinoy kid, funny, and a doctor to boot, say those close to him.

But today, he lives in one of the worst places for a person of Afghan descent: across the street from the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., where he and his Afghan wife Aziza have taken to passing themselves off as Mexicans since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Najib Habib, 33, whose father Dr. Habib Ullah Habib was an Asian Development Bank officer, first came with his family to the Philippines when he was 4 or 5, and lost his parents here in his 20's.

He grew up speaking Taglish, lived for many years in Makati's Forbes Park, and was educated in such local schools as the Maria Montessori Cooperative and the University of Santo Tomas.

"He's even more Filipino than many Filipinos I know," said his best friend from childhood, TJ O. Besa III. "When he's abroad, he's starving to get in touch with Filipinos, and he gets homesick for the Philippines."

Najib and TJ have been best friends from kindergarten, and through high school and college, when Najib went to UST to study Medicine, and TJ enrolled at the University of the Philippines to major in Psychology.

Weekends, they would shanghai the Habib family's purple and cream Dodge Dart, which they christened The Batmobile.

Najib grew up knowing the Philippines as home, but every now and then, his mother would take him back to the Middle East to keep him in touch with his roots.

His grandmother, 75 years old in 1985, would go from war-torn Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, travel by pony through the Khyber Pass at night, and by day, hide and sleep in caves, perhaps one of the same where Osama bin Laden could now be holed up.

Her destination was Peshawar, Pakistan, to be reunited for a few days with her beloved daughter and grandson Najib. The Habibs could not enter Kabul because they would not have been allowed out again by Soviet occupation forces.

In 1985, when TJ spent a year studying in the United States, his best buddy Najib would visit TJ's mother at work to cheer her up.

At the baptism of TJ's son, Najib stood as godfather, while Najib's parents solemnly looked on with other close family friends in the afternoon glow of the Manila Cathedral's stained glass windows.

HE/ A16

Latest survey says PDI still No. 1

Most read by men, women; top-ranked among AB class

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer remains the most widely read newspaper in the country, according to the latest survey of the independent Asia Research Organization (ARO).

Almost half, or 48 percent, of the broadsheet readers surveyed by the ARO named the INQUIRER when asked what newspaper they read either today or yesterday.

The Manila Bulletin came in second with 35 percent, and the Philippine Star third with 21 percent.

Asked what newspapers they read in the past seven days, half (50 percent) of the respondents named the INQUIRER, 35 percent named the Bulletin, and 18 percent named the Star. The results of the ARO survey showed that the INQUIRER had retained its leadership in readership for the eighth consecutive year.

The results also showed that the INQUIRER remained the most read newspaper by both men and women and a top read in the AB socioeconomic class.

Fifty-four percent of the male broadsheet readers surveyed said they read the INQUIRER either today or yesterday, while 52 percent said it was the newspaper they read in the past seven days.

Among female broadsheet readers, 41 percent said they read the INQUIRER either today or yesterday, while 46 percent said they read it in the past week.

The INQUIRER has also maintained its top ranking among the AB class, with a 68-percent readership rating.

The ARO is an independent marketing and opinion research agency in the Philippines and is a member of the prestigious Gallup International Association.

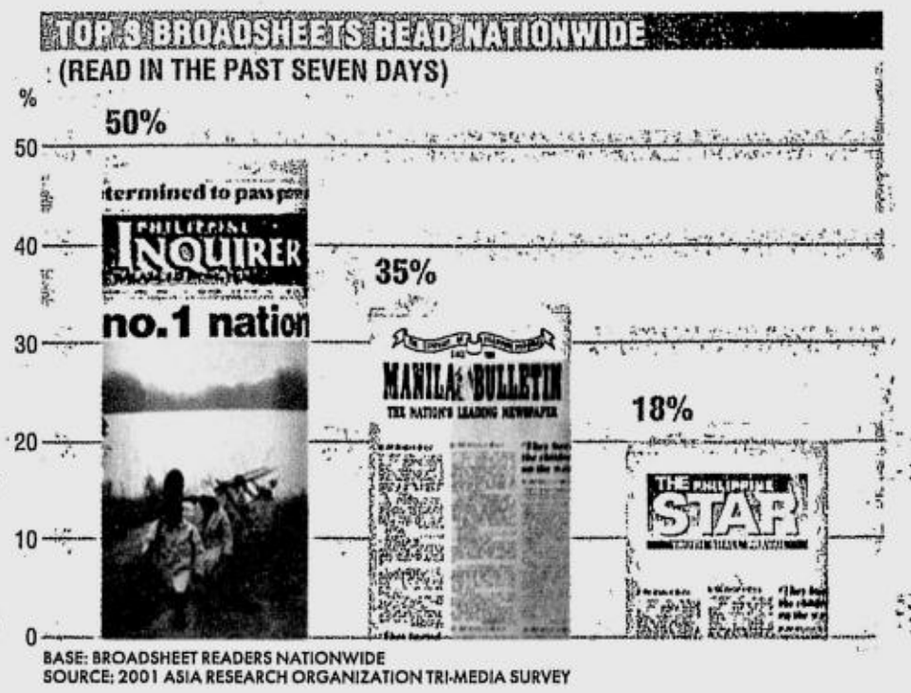
Its media survey is an annual syndicated poll conducted in the second quarter of each year since 1994.

ARO president Angel Almojuela said the survey was conducted through the face-to-face interview method using a structured questionnaire that the agency had been using for three years now.

The selection of sample areas is done through systematic sampling, he said.

More than 200 sample barangays across the country were drawn at random and 2,000 individuals interviewed in the survey.

Almojuela said the total sample size of 2,000 had a margin of error of plus/minus 2.2 percent at 95-percent confidence level.



BASE: BROADSHEET READERS NATIONWIDE
SOURCE: 2001 ASIA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION TRI-MEDIA SURVEY

Second FRONT PAGE

Missing Pinoy found alive

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

THREE weeks after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, a Filipino security officer earlier reported among the missing at the World Trade Center in New York was found alive and safe.

Bernardo Gallardo, who was included in the official list of missing Filipinos, was not inside the WTC on Sept. 11. He had relocated to New Jersey before the attack.

The news brought down to 18 the number of Filipinos who are among the 6,000 or so people feared dead in the aftermath of the attacks.

As of yesterday, the Filipinos still missing were Cecille M. Caguicla, Cesar Alviar, Marlyn Bautista, Grace Alegre Cua, Jay Ciril Dichavez, Benilda Domingo, Judy Fernandez, Ramon Grihalvo, Frederick Kuo, Jr., Arnold Lim, Manuel Lopez, Carl Allen Peralta, Rufino Flores Santos, Maritess Santilla, David N. Sullins, Larry Sumaya, Hector Tamayo and Cynthia Motus-Wilson.

The Philippine Embassy in Washington earlier confirmed there were two Filipinos onboard the hijacked commercial flights that smashed into the twin towers.

RP lacks planes to evacuate Pinoys

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

A TOP foreign affairs official said the Philippines should ask the United States to help evacuate thousands of overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East who are in danger of being caught in the crossfire of the US-led war against terrorism.

Merlin Magallona, the undersecretary for migrant affairs who heads the Department of Foreign Affairs' crisis committee, said the US should lend some of its planes to transport the OFWs in return for the Philippines' "all-out support."

The DFA is scrambling for airplanes to transport the OFWs in case their host countries decide to cancel all international flights.

While the Philippines' support for the anti-terrorism campaign was a response to the United Nations Security Council's call for global cooperation, it is "certainly logical in this kind of relationship (that there be) a sharing (of resources) on the basis of our needs," Magallona said in a news briefing.

"We badly need air transportation facilities. Perhaps our cooperation with the Americans will provide us these facilities," he said.

Malacañang has said it was not asking anything in return for its support for Washington, which includes allowing the US to use its former military bases here for refueling and transshipment.

The DFA said some 74,000 OFWs in nine countries in the Middle East may need to be evacuated under the "worst-case scenario" should the US attack Afghanistan, which it has accused of harboring suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden.

While there are no documented Filipinos in Afghanistan, Magallona said Filipinos elsewhere in the region were vulnerable from reprisal attacks by Islamic fundamentalist groups.

He said Philippine embassies in the affected countries have mapped out exit routes by land or sea.

Under the worst-case scenario, they will have to leave the country by air.

"At the moment we don't have planes. We're still looking for the funds," he said.

Meanwhile, former Sen. Wigberto Tañada yesterday said the question of allowing the use of the US' former military bases for fighting terrorism should be the subject of "more information, discussion and debate" especially in the Senate, the body that looks into treaties and executive agreements.

He urged the Senate to press for details of the commitments that the Macapagal-Arroyo administration has made to the US-led International Counter-Terrorist Coalition (ICTC) and review whether these are allowed under the Visiting Forces Agreement, the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty and the 1987 Constitution. *Reports Tonette Orejas, Desiree Caluza, Allan Macatuno and Thet Mesias, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gloria misread Metro pulse, militants claim

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will be misreading the mood of Metro Manilans if she believes they favor the government's all-out support for the US-led war against terrorism.

The militant group Sanlakas made this contention yesterday as it announced plans to intensify its anti-war campaign by shifting it to a pro-peace drive.

Reacting to the latest Pulse Asia survey, Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza advised Ms Macapagal not to be deceived into thinking that Metro Manilans approve of the country's participation in the war.

He said that while the survey showed that 78 percent of respondents favored some form of Philippine participation in the international war against terrorism, only half of them actually approved of the use of force.

"If taken as representative of the Filipino people, only a minority desires an all-out war and even fewer favor sending our boys to a US-led war," Fortaleza said.

He said that based on the survey results, "the people understandably want an end terrorism but are ambivalent about a new war that they fear would have negative effects on the country."

Fortaleza said the Sanlakas-led pro-peace campaign would initially be built on the people's anti-war sentiments.

The sentiments would then shift to a pro-peace constituency that knows that only through the settlement of conflicts could terrorism be solved, he said.

"We will take our case directly to the people, not to the President, who is too blinded by her puppetry to the US," he said.

Fortaleza said that after daily peace pickets at the US Embassy, militants allied with Sanlakas will "diversify" into more creative and popular forms of taking their "message of peace and justice" to the people.

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LUZON GRAND TOURS
October 2001
5-7 Oct. BANAUE TOUR w/ BONTOC & SAGADA. Visit the RICE TERRACES VIEWPOINTS, souvenir shops, Mt. Polis, BONTOC Museum (artifacts, old photos, traditional houses), SAGADA'S burial cave and weaving, BANGA-AN VILLAGE and the Guihob's natural pool.
13-14 Oct. ZAMBALES & PANGASINAN TOUR offers SUBIC tour w/ jungle survival, overnight at Palmera Beach Resort, HUNDRED ISLANDS picnic & hopping.
20-21 Oct. MT. DATA a Mountain Province experience. Mt. Data is truly a romantic and perfect getaway, nestled among the evergreen forests of the northern province, generally cool with pinescented trees.
26-28 Oct. BICOLANDIA TOUR, highlights the best of Bicol seeing the one of the world's most beautiful volcanoes, MT. MAYON, one of the world's cleanest lake, LAKE BUHI and where the world's smallest fish can be found. In Sorsogon, tourist finds the BULUSAN LAKE, owing to its tranquil beauty and fascinating view. Other attractions: Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Gate, CAGSAWA RUINS, HOYOP-HOYOPAN CAVE, MATEO HOT SPRINGS and Shopping Center of Tobacco City.
For inquiries & reservations, please call CAUSEWAY TOURS Tel.# 853-86-52, 853-87-28, or text 0917-342-8664. Check our DEAL, & PAY LESS for DISCOUNTS.

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in Spanish
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ANNOUNCEMENT
President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has submitted to the Commission on Appointments (C.A.) for confirmation the *ad interim* appointments of the following:
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Francisco A. Alba - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Vatican with the rank of Chief of Mission, Class II
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
To the grade of Major General - Pedro V. Atienza, Jr.
To the grade of Brigadier General - Celso G. Castro, Neon D. Ebuen, Cesar P. Gopilan.
To the grade of Colonel - Washington D. Tudlong, Antonio A. Amodia, Fred R. Llosal, Ricardo B. Torrevillas, Manuel T. Rodis
The public may submit any information, written report or sworn complaints or oppositions in thirty (30) copies on the above appointments to the CA Secretariat, 6th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila.
For the schedule of the public hearings, the CA Secretariat can be reached through telephone numbers 551-7532, 831-0893, 831-1824 and 834-2706
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GSIS charter change sought

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

THE CHARTER of the Government Service Insurance System should be changed to remove the legal justification for the "exorbitant" salaries of its "unscrupulous and spoiled" officials, militant labor leader and Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said yesterday.

"This is one charter change (that) the people can approve of," the lawmaker said.

Outraged over the latest disclosure on the huge salaries and benefits that top GSIS officials continue to receive, Beltran said the state-run pension fund's charter should be overhauled to ensure that its officials and board of trustees would stop "colluding" to increase their perks.

A recent Commission on Audit report comparing salaries and allowances of the GSIS' top officials and that of ordinary government employees covered by the Salary Standardization Law revealed that the compensation and allowances of the GSIS top brass were eight to 10 times more than those of their counterparts in other government agencies.

Earlier, the COA resident auditor at the GSIS questioned a special GSIS retirement plan that allows GSIS officials to get more than double what ordinary government employees receive in retirement benefits.

Defiant on salaries

Beltran said the GSIS officials should be punished for remaining defiant about their huge salaries, benefits and allowances.

A few months ago, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered officials of government financial institutions, including the GSIS, to voluntarily cut their salaries after receiving reports that top officials were receiving monthly compensation in the hundreds of thousands of pesos.

But months after the issue was first aired, no action has been taken, Beltran said.

"From whatever viewpoint, as government officials they should not be receiving monthly salaries that's equal to the combined monthly paychecks of a hundred clerks and secretaries," he said.

Beltran said the "spoiled and pampered government officials" would most likely try to excuse their high salaries by saying that the GSIS rank-and-file were also receiving higher-than-usual basic salaries.

He argued that based on the daily cost of living standards, workers and employees should be getting a minimum of P15,000 monthly to be able to satisfactorily meet physical, mental and psychological needs.

Justified salary

Thus, a GSIS rank-and-file employee receiving P15,697 in basic pay and salary was justified, he said.

"The rank-and-file employees of the GSIS should not be blamed for receiving salaries and benefits higher than those given to their counterparts in other government agencies and offices," he said.

Beltran said that his office receives an average of five letters a day from retired government employees asking for his help in getting their monthly pensions increased.

"These retirees point out that what they receive is far from being enough to tide them over in their old age," he said.

"Now it turns out that the pensions that should have been going to the retirees and their families have been going into the salaries of spoiled GSIS officials," Beltran said.

He also assailed the way GSIS officials maneuvered to have the pension fund exempted from the Salary Standardization Law.

He said they did these not to make the GSIS' operation and management more effective but because the agency's top executives did not want government-level salaries.

"They wanted salaries like those received by CEOs of top private corporations. If that's what they want, then they should get out of government service," Beltran said.

Cebu Pacific also collecting P300 insurance surcharge

CEBU Pacific Air will collect an additional insurance surcharge of P300 per passenger for every domestic flight segment beginning Monday, the airline announced yesterday. The increase, according to a press release from the airline, is being applied by all airlines worldwide in the light of the increase in insurance premiums triggered by the terrorist attacks in the United States on Sept. 11.

"No airline can take the risk of operating with inadequate insurance," said Peggy Vera, Cebu Pacific VP for corporate planning and external affairs. "So we took the coverage. We are now constrained to impose a P300 surcharge.

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DFA 'insensitivity' in Belgium raid hit

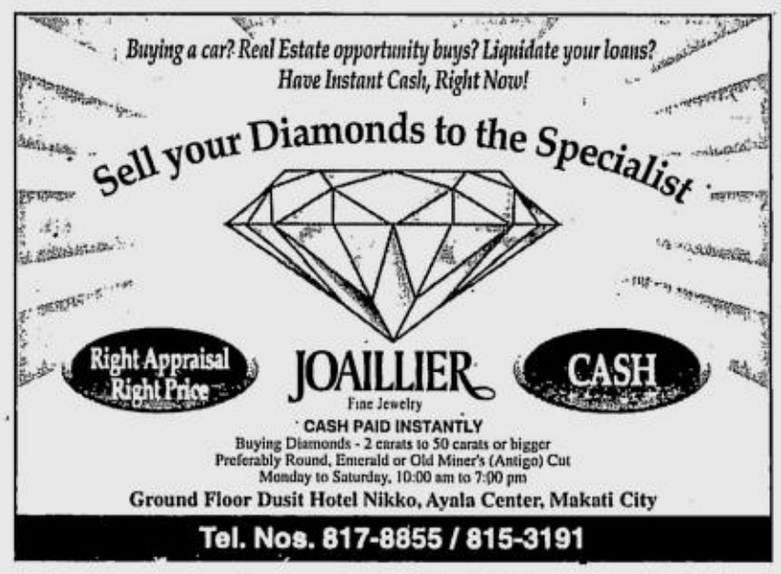
BAYAN Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday scored the Department of Foreign Affairs for its alleged insensitivity to the plight of Filipinos living in Belgium.

He said that there was a noticeable "lack of concern" on the part of the foreign affairs department for these Filipinos, as evidenced in Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona's stand that there is no need for the Philippines to demand a public apology from Belgian authorities.

"Is the apathy because the Filipinos in Belgium do not remit American dollars, or at least do not remit as not much as the workers in the Middle East or in the Asia Pacific? Is the lack of concern relative to the money these Filipinos send home to the Philippines?" he said.

"Perhaps the DFA would have expressed outrage and demanded an apology if the Filipinos whose homes were raided were big dollar earners," Beltran added.

Beltran said that the DFA must not quibble over the reasons for the dawn raids.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PRC warns examinees vs fixers

THE PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission yesterday warned fixers victimizing examinees of professional licensure examinations and professionals applying for renewal of licenses that the agency would prosecute them with the full power of the law.

This warning, made by newly installed PRC Chair Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe, comes in the heels of an entrapment operation led by the National Bureau of Investigation and assisted by the PRC last Friday. The operation led the arrest of Armi Menor Liguid and her accomplice-husband Mario Liguid, at Goldilocks Bakeshop along España. Armi Liguid is known to be one of the notorious fixers victimizing hundreds of examinees since 1997, the PRC said in a press statement.

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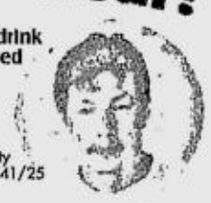

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Session 2
DECISION MODEL FOR OPTIMUM PRODUCT DESIGN
By: Ms. Mercy Abad
President, Trends-MBL

Session 3
SETTING PROFITABLE PRICING THRESHOLD
By: Dr. Antonio Concepcion
Professor, De La Salle Graduate School of Business

DAY 2 (Oct. 5, 2001)

Session 4
PREDICTING CONSUMER PURCHASE BEHAVIOR
By: Mr. Ambrosio Reyes
Director for Operations, A C Nielsen Philippines

Session 5
QUANTIFYING CONSUMER ATTITUDE TOWARDS CREATIVITY OF AN ADVERTISEMENT
By: Ms. Darrah Estrada
Managing Director, Taylor Nelson Sofres Philippines

Session 6
UNDERSTANDING CONSUMERS' IN-STORE SHOPPING BEHAVIOR AND THEIR ROLE IN SALES PROMOTIONS
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Moro rebs accuse gov't troops of truce violations

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front has accused the military of violating a ceasefire agreement anew when it attacked MILF positions in Buldon, Maguindanao on Wednesday.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the attack resulted in a two-day firefight that left six soldiers and two rebels dead.

"Our forces in the mountains were attacked without provocation," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

The fresh fighting came in the wake of a localized ceasefire in Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte that was brokered by Malacañang on Sept. 9.

"The military is trying to provoke us so the ceasefire agreement and the peace process would fail," Kabalu said.

The government and the separatist MILF are in the midst of suspended peace talks.

Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson based in Maguindanao, said the military had responded to the alarm raised by residents about the presence of heavily armed men in Barangay Minabay.

He said reports reaching the military indicated the gunmen were harassing farmers and extorting money from residents.

"We responded to the reports but our soldiers were ambushed on their way to the area," Ando said.

He said no soldiers were killed although two members of the 64th Infantry Battalion were wounded.

Kabalu said the first attack by the military occurred Wednesday with the government side suffering heavy casualties.

He said the soldiers were not able to retrieve the bodies of their comrades until dusk because of heavy resistance from the MILF fighters. He said air strikes were launched against the guerrillas on Thursday morning.

Kabalu said the MILF peace panel has informed its couhterpart in the government about the attack, describing it as a "very, very unfortunate incident."

Even with the renewed fighting, Kabalu said the MILF will attend the resumption of peace talks with the government in Malaysia next week.

The MILF would insist, however, that the ceasefire agreement be complied with, he said.

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NDF denies plan to cut short peace talks by December

BY DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The communist National Democratic Front has vehemently denied it intended to cut short the peace talks with the government before the end of the year.

NDF peace panel chief Luis Jalandoni said the claim by former New People's Army prisoner Maj. Noel Buan that the NDF was planning to end the peace negotiations by December "was not true."

Buan, former intelligence chief of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command, was released by communist guerrillas after nearly two years in captivity.

He revealed during military debriefing that the communists were planning to abort the peace talks before the end of the year.

In an e-mail to the INQUIRER yesterday in response to a query, Jalandoni noted it was the government that unilaterally declared an indefinite recess in the peace talks on June 13, the day after former Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo was assassinated by the NPA.

Jalandoni said, "It was also President Macapagal who canceled the resumption of the formal talks on Sept. 20."

He said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was the main proponent of the peace talks' suspension.

Jalandoni said, "Reyes raised an objection during the emergency meeting of the Cabinet Oversight Committee a few hours before the scheduled departure of the Philippine peace panel."

"Reyes wants to make use of the US international war on terrorism to sabotage the peace talks and prevent its (implementation). (He wants to) launch intensified offensives against the MILF and NPA and put them on the same level as the Abu Sayyaf," Jalandoni said.

"The President," he added, "has been giving in to Reyes."

He said the President would be making a mistake if she underestimates the NDF as deposed President Joseph Estrada did.

NOTICE OF 48-HOUR WATER SERVICE INTERRUPTION

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC. wishes to inform the public that certain areas in Quezon City and Manila will experience a 48-hour water service interruption starting at **10:00 p.m., Friday, October 5, 2001 up to 10:00 p.m., Sunday, October 7, 2001**.

The interruption will be due to the following water supply improvement projects of Maynilad that will be done by **J.V. Angeles Construction Corp.**: two interconnection works along D. Tuazon St. corner Quezon Ave. and E. Rodriguez Ave., replacement of constricted sections of an existing pipe at D. Tuazon, and repair of an existing 1050mm-diameter gate valve along D. Tuazon corner E. Rodriguez Ave..

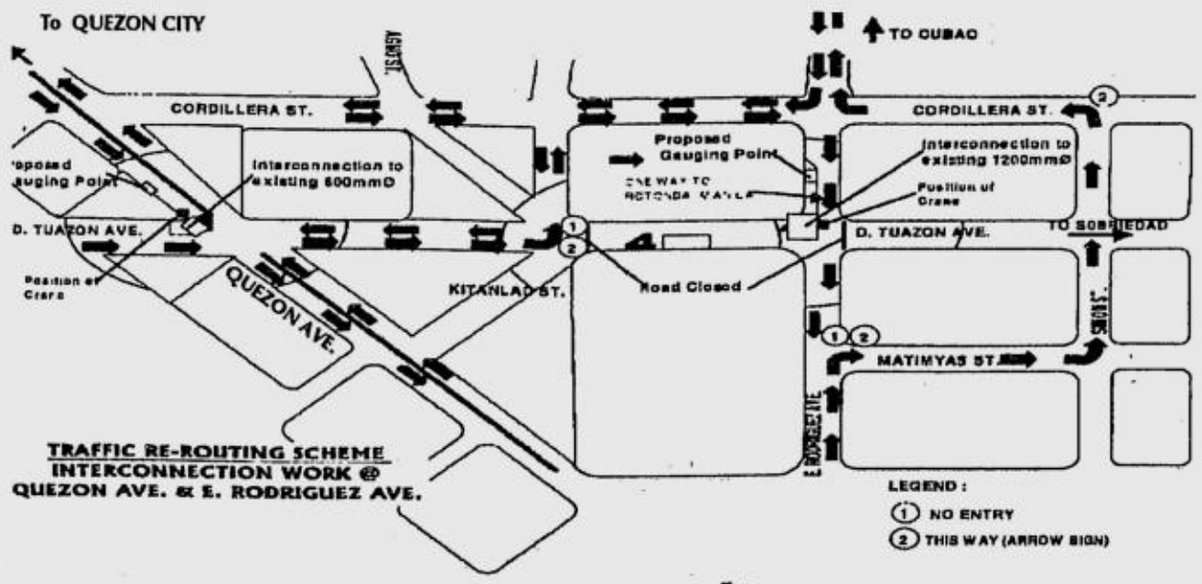
The waterless areas are: **Quezon City :** Manresa, San Jose, Damar Village, Maharlika, N.S. Amoranto, Lourdes, Paang Bondok, Sta. Teresita, Salvacion, St. Peter, San Isidro, Labrador, Dona Josefa, Tatalon, Don Manuel, Dona Aurora and San Isidro. **Manila:** Sta. Cruz and Sampaloc. Affected residents are advised to store water good for the duration of the water cutoff.

The interconnection of the 2200mm-diameter LMAQ-3 line to the existing 600mm- diameter line along Quezon Avenue and to the existing 1200mm-diameter line along E Rodriguez Ave will mean a reduction in the cross border flow and easy energization of LMAQ-3 line without need for another service cutoff. On the other hand, the replacement of the constricted sections of the existing 1050mm-diameter line along D. Tuazon St. fronting D. Tuazon Pumping Station and near Agno-Kitanlad Sts. will improve pressure along the mainline.

Motorists are also advised to take alternative routes to avoid traffic congestion in the affected areas:

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience arising from the interconnection works and ask for the public's understanding and cooperation.

Please refer to the map below for the traffic re-routing scheme:



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Name that plane

(From page A1)

Thanks, or no thanks, to the return of American forces to neighboring Clark in the ongoing US-led war on terrorism, residents are in for endless hours of listening agony, said Jose Dayrit, a local historian and executive assistant to the mayor.

The mere sound of a plane flying overhead, which everybody here calls a "sonic boom," is enough of a clue to tell whether the aircraft is a C-130 Hercules, a C-5 Galaxy, an F-4H Phantom II, an F-15 Eagle or an F-14 Tomcat, he said.

"Even without going outside of their homes or glancing at the sky, my town mates can identify the kind of planes that land and take off at Clark," Dayrit said.

Photographer Boy Sagad, who is also from this town, is one of those who developed a knack for identifying planes sight unseen.

Naming planes was a local game during the heyday of Clark as a US air base, when aircraft soared "every minute, for 24 hours," Sagad said.

From the Vietnam War in the 1960s until the Gulf War in 1980s, the United States used the base for military air transport services.

Outside the base, especially in nearby Angeles City, battle-weary soldiers took their "liberty" leave or R&R "to boost morale," as they used to say.

Querubin Fernandez, a retired municipal assessor and also this town's historian and poet, remembers that planes flew frequently over Santa Ines, Poblacion, San Francisco and Mabiga, towns just outside the perimeter of the 2,500-hectare runway at Clark.

Around 97 percent of the 4,400-hectare base lies within Mabalacat, Dayrit said.

Fernandez, 66, said the belfry of the Roman Catholic church at the town center served as the aircraft's guideposts.

Local hit

Dayrit, 57, has not forgotten the years when "it was constantly noisy. Every time the planes came, the window shook. Jalousies cracked. The light bulbs were busted."

He especially disliked the roaring tanker planes that used to wake him up in the middle of the night.

Fed up with going deaf, Dayrit penned a song, "Talkin' Ecology Blues," about the earsplitting noise.

In a town that has bred the likes of Isagani Ibarra and has adopted the famous Asin folk band, Dayrit's song became a local hit.

It goes: *"I was kind of feelin' lonesome and blue/ I needed some merry music to listen to/ So I thought of turnin' on my phono set/ But all I heard above are sonic jets/ Roaring above me with their thunder booms/ I could not make out the music in my room/Oh mama . . . mamatay ako!"*

Shouting

Thankfully, none of the townsfolk actually died from the noise, and not one single plane crashed in populated areas.

But quite a few eventually developed hearing defects, Fernandez said.

And to make themselves heard above the constant din, residents also developed the habit of shouting—giving non-Mabalacat residents the impression that Mabalaqueños were always angry, Dayrit said.

"Here, it wasn't talking but shouting and screaming during those days, or else you couldn't not be heard," he added.

The blare got to be so annoying that sometime in the 1980s, the municipal council, in a resolution, complained to the American base commanders and sought compensation.

Ignored

The resolution was ignored, and so the residents simply had to tolerate the noise, according to Fernandez and Dayrit.

But during last year's and this year's military exercises held under the Visiting Forces Agreement, residents, through their local officials, raised concerns about low-flying aircraft, Dayrit said.

Fernandez said he cannot imagine what Mabalacat and Angeles will be like when US aircraft land and take off again at Clark.

He is also worried because of a large population of youngsters and Mt. Pinatubo settlers who are not accustomed to the noise of aircraft.

Morales said he did not oppose the US plan to use Clark because the facility would be the country's contribution to the global campaign against terrorism.

But Dayrit has a different view. "I hope they won't use Clark again for aggression. And noise—not again," he said.

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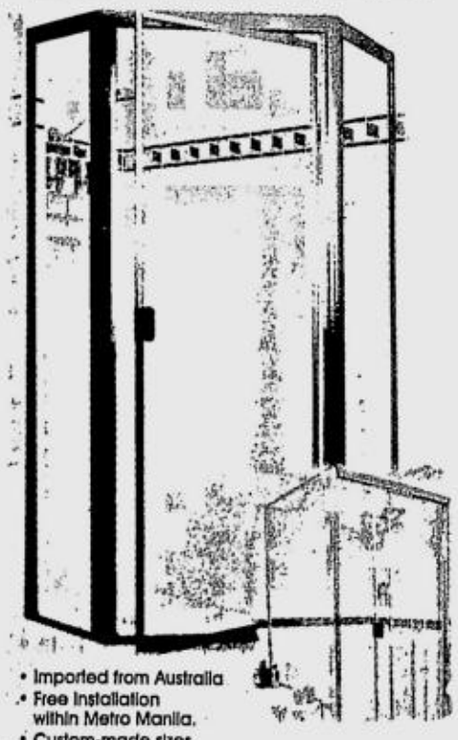
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OPINION

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His own grave

EDITORIAL

CHIEF Superintendent Reynaldo Acop went to the resumption of the Senate inquiry on the illegal drug commerce intent on clearing himself and the Philippine National Police. He wanted to expose Mary "Rosebud" Ong's sweeping revelations on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's and the PNP's alleged ties with the international narcotics trade as nothing but a fantastic yarn, the product of an overwrought imagination. But when he emerged from the hearing, everyone agreed he had dug deeper his own grave. Worse, he had given more credence to Ong's testimony, the opposite of what he had wanted to achieve.

The former head of the PNP Narcotics Group failed to give the lie to Ong's claim that he had given her P2 million as "show money" in an undercover operation to buy illegal drugs from the Hong Kong triad. Ong said the drugs seized from the bust were later recycled and sold by Acop's agents. She said the check was not encashed since Acop's men gave her cash instead.

Acop failed to convincingly rebut Ong's claim. He admitted that he had indeed issued a check to her, but said this was "a personal matter between her and me." He said he issued the check to help Ong, who had gone bankrupt as a result of her gambling vice. He said Ong's house was being foreclosed because of her failure to pay her debts.

The immediate question is where Acop got the money to help Ong. In a surprising revelation, he said he issued a personal check from his wife's account. This has caused much public anxiety. How were they able to amass such a fortune from his regular pay as a law enforcer? Of course, the check was not encashed, but Acop himself admitted that at one time, he gave Ong a check of P100,000 to pay her gambling debts. The money came again from his wife's checking account.

So are the Acops so rich as to be able to support the gambling habit of a government spy? Not so, Acop said. He explained that the P2 million check would have been funded from the P7.5 million allocated by Sen. Vicente Sotto III from his Countrywide Development Fund for an anti-drug operation. He said he issued the personal check "to make it appear as if it were a personal favor because she might not pay it back if she knows it came from public funds." In fact, the P100,000 he had given Ong to bail her out of her gambling losses had been reimbursed from the fund.

The revelation was quite damning. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel gave voice to the incredulity of the public upon hearing Acop's explanations. "My goodness, you can use intelligence funds (to pay for) gambling losses of a private person. I think there is a dangerous trend here," he said.

Acop might not have fully realized it, but he admitted that he had embezzled public funds. And for what? To personally help a person who was an important pivot in the anti-drug campaign? As Sen. Joker Arroyo pointed out, it was "unusual" that Acop helped Ong by using intelligence funds of the Narcotics Group at a time when he was no longer its chief.

Lawmakers and the public should have by now a clearer view of the abuse of intelligence funds, a hangover from the Marcos era when just about every agency was given the liberty to establish their own intelligence funds that were not subject to audit. The NarGroup, for instance, should be made to answer for its cavalier way of using Sotto's CDF as intelligence funds, as if to free it from public accountability.

Now Acop should not find unusual the public's perception of the PNP. The public looks at those assigned the mission to check the drug menace as unprofessional. The mission is carried out by men who have been lost in the haze of their own creation, so that they cannot anymore demarcate what's public and what's personal, like Acop using intelligence funds ostensibly to help bail out Ong, or define what's professional and what's private, like Supt. John Campos admitting he had an affair with a government agent.

All in all, the PNP has been conducting an unprofessional anti-drug campaign. Acop's testimony has strengthened the growing belief that the PNP has largely conducted the anti-drug campaign in a haphazard manner.

What is even more galling is that the arbitrariness seems to be self-inflicted. It is as if the NarGroup has really bungled the anti-drug campaign to improve the business prospects of the drug barons.

An international obligation

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I'M no military expert or armchair general, so I'll not offer any solution to the current terrorist problem gripping the civilized world. Some friends of mine are more knowledgeable on international law and politics, let alone geopolitical strategy. They can give better advice to the Americans on what to do to the Taliban and Osama bin Laden. Me, I'm just an ordinary observer of the unraveling drama that may deflect the course of history.

I realize that the evil of terrorism is a menace to all humankind that should be rooted out and destroyed forever. It is worse than traditional war, which, although also condemned by the community of nations, is at least less vicious.

In war, the enemies-in-arms are identified, there are accepted rules of engagement, non-combatants are spared from direct attack, and perfidy or bad faith is absolutely forbidden. The modern weapons of war are mind-boggling, but their use has been restrained so far by considerations of humanity or fear of retaliation. For all its horror, war exalts nobility in sacrifice, the virtues of patriotism, heroism and courage, honor in open combat, mercy for defenseless civilians and the foe who surrenders, and even respect for the canons of chivalry.

Terrorism eschews such refinements. The terrorists skulk in the shadows to plot their murderous lust against their unsuspecting victims. They may operate in the very land of their enemy, masquerading as innocent individuals grateful for the welcome, shelter and freedom the host country is giving them. These fanatic ideologues have no regard for human life, not even their own and much less of those they kill without pity or remorse. They are psychopathic assassins whose instruments of mass destruction are no more dangerous than the utter evil lurking in their corrupted minds.

The assault on the United States last month displayed to all the world the unbelievable wickedness of terrorism at its vilest. No less than Satan himself and his cohorts could have caused those hijacked planes to crash into the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. The deviltry was systematically planned. The attacks came within minutes of each other. The targets in New York proclaimed the financial might of the United States and the Pentagon its military strength. The fourth plane that crashed might have demolished the White House as the seat of international power. The terrorists meant to humble America by bringing her to her knees in her own land.

It is especially despicable that the attacks were made at a time when the buildings were expected to be already fully occupied by the office workers, not to mention the callers and the tourists who were visiting the tallest skyscrapers in New York. These unfortunate people were ordinary men and women just preparing to do another day's work as usual before returning to their respective homes and well-earned rest. Only a few of them survived. Thousands of them were burned beyond recognition; many were buried in the rubble of the collapsed edifices; others were simply vaporized. None of them deserved to die.

The cruelty alone of this incredible tragedy has shocked the conscience of the world. The victims of the carnage were not political partisans or religious zealots and neither were they commando warriors armed to the teeth against an invisible adversary. Their simple pleasures were probably watching TV or playing bridge or eating out at McDonald's every now and then. The Twin Towers themselves were not nuclear arsenals aimed at the heartland of the terrorists but ordinary office buildings equipped with nothing more dangerous than IT machines.

The choice in this conflict between Good and Evil must be obvious. Regardless of our personal political and religious persuasions, we must side with the United States as the symbol and leader in the fight against international terrorism. Our decision on this matter must be categorical. Straddling the fence would be evasive and cowardly.

If allying ourselves against the terrorists will endanger our workers in the Arab countries, as some senators fear, so be it. Risks must be taken. We should also not be frightened that our own Muslim brothers, many of whom are also against terrorism, will bring the wrath of Allah on our heads.

It is the misfortunate of Muslims in general that they have been lumped in the public eye as generic killers because of the brutality of some of them. This is unfair to the majority who are God-fearing and law-abiding. The terrorists and their supporters who danced with joy when they heard of the collapsed American landmarks are the exception. They do not reflect the sentiments of the greater portion of the Arab world.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did the right thing in immediately condoling with the American people and offering the support and assistance of our government in hunting down the terrorists. We should share in the universal resolve to put a stop once and for all to the hydra-headed monster that has grown over the years to menace the peace and security of the entire world.

There are fears that a Filipino contingent in the Coalition Forces might be used only as a cannon fodder while others believe that our soldiers may only be assigned as mere cooks to serve the fighting forces. The arguments blow hot and cold. In any case, let's not act like a prima donna when we're only an extra in the cast.

Being unfamiliar with the sophisticated armaments handled by better-trained troops, our soldiers will probably be given less aggressive duties, like driving trucks and other vehicles, in which we excel. As for being assigned as cooks, what's wrong with that? If that is how the Filipinos can best serve the anti-terrorism cause, why not? The trouble with some of us is our *señorito* attitude, which disdains any menial work, however respectable. And by the way, some chefs get higher pay than generals.

On Sept. 12, the United Nations adopted Resolution 1368 calling for the cooperation of all states in stamping out terrorism. The Philippines is a founding member of that organization and is bound to give it "every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with (its) Charter." We should not hesitate to do our part, however humble, in the maintenance of international peace and security. The cowering Cassandras among us should not deter us from fighting terrorism.

Poor rich man

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told that one day, a tourist chanced upon a fisherman relaxing by the sea. Asked what he was doing, the fisherman answered that he was just relaxing and taking it easy. Not wanting to let the occasion pass to teach him a lesson, the tourist went on to admonish the fisherman to work hard, so that he could have more money, so that with more money he could relax and take it easy in life. The fisherman's response was: "That's what I am doing now, relaxing and taking it easy!"

* * *

The Gospel today (Lk. 16, 19-31) warns us about the fate of those who have too many material things in this life. Not only do they live more complicated lives, they also risk the possibility of going to the place of torment after a life of comfort in this world. There's nothing wrong with being rich as such. What is wrong is when your riches so bind and blind you that you no longer have joy, fulfillment and meaning. When money becomes your God, then people become just tools for you to make more money, and God has no place in your heart. I agree that the bottom line for many things in this world is money, but the human spirit within us is meant to go above the bottom line. There must be more to life than just the bottom line.

***

When I was a little boy, I had a playmate whose father was in the US Navy. He had plenty of toys, chocolates and "stateside" clothes. Children as we were, we his friends envied him and longed to receive whatever crumbs he would throw to us. Looking back, I do not have any resentment at all except that he used his material blessings to get and control us. And he also flaunted his riches to make us feel our deprivation all the more.

Congratulations to you who are rich, but please, don't use your riches to control and manipulate people. And please be sensitive also to the feelings of the poor and the deprived around you. It is painful to be deprived and to feel deprived.

* * *

I somehow felt the feeling of envy and deprivation once again this week as I saw the affluence and progress of our rich Asian neighbors like Hong Kong, Seoul and Shanghai. Wow! How fast they have progressed! I can't help but wish that we too in the Philippines would get going soon.

Yes we will! Along with this wish is my prayer that material progress will not make us spiritually malnourished. There is a price to pay for progress. As we go for progress, may we not throw away God and our basic human values. Otherwise, we may end up like the poor rich man in the story of Lazarus—lonely, shallow, burdened and tormented in the end.

* * *

There was one moment in Shanghai that made me realize our riches in spite of our poverty. Our guide, an atheist, observed how happy and joyful we Filipinos were. It was so easy for us to be joyful and warm. She also observed how prayerful we were. She said it so well: "When I have problems, I just go out and have drinks or have fun, and somehow forget. But you, you pray, you turn to your God, and you are peaceful and happy again."

True. We have a treasure. It's not ours to keep, but to spread. Not ours to flaunt, but to share.

* * *

If you have a good family, then you are blessed and rich. Don't let riches destroy your family. May nothing and no one ever destroy it. There is no such thing as a perfect family. There are real problems in every family, but continue to be real people who never give up on one another.

How is your family? Are you close to God? Are you close to one another? Are people close to you? If only we took care and invested as much in our families as we do in our work and businesses. Please take care of your family. It will take care of you. In the end, no else will.

* * *

You have riches, but do you have a life? You have quantity in life, but do you have quality life? Ordinary people will always have a reason for trying to have more in life. Principled people on the other hand know when to stop and say no to quantity and go for quality. So, when will you stop quantifying and start qualifying for life, and for eternal life?

* * *

October is the month of the rosary. I am inviting you once again to join me in the "Walk with God" to Manaoag from Urdaneta, Pangasinan, this Oct. 6, starting at 6:00 a.m. from Urdaneta Church, ending with the 11:00 a.m. Mass at Manaoag. Join us to pray especially for world peace, healing of our land and for our Holy Father.

* * *

Tomorrow I will be 48 years old. I don't have much in terms of material riches and quantity, but I would like to thank God for His presence in my life. He has made the difference. Because of Him, I am rich with friends, hope and meaning. There have been failure, mistakes and deprivations, but 48 years was worth it all. In humility I say I am a rich poor man because of God's presence in my life, unworthy as I am.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to go for quality not quantity in life. Amen.

The law and terrorism

CROSSCURRENTS

Antonio T. Carpio

NATIONS all over the world are now struggling to update their laws to counter the new terrorism that is threatening global security and adversely affecting the world economy. The United States, which updated its Anti-Terrorism Law only in 1995, now finds this law obsolete to fight the terrorism that killed more than 6,000 people in New York last Sept. 11. In the Philippines, despite recurring threats from our own Muslim extremists who are apparently aided by foreign terrorists, we have not enacted our own anti-terrorism law.

Any anti-terrorism law designed to counter the terrorism perfected by Saudi-born Osama bin Laden must address three issues. First, the law must empower authorities to promptly detain and deport **alien** terrorists who succeed in entering the country. Second, the law must authorize law enforcers to promptly monitor the communication systems of terrorists, be they wire or wireless, voice or data. Third, the law must allow law enforcers to promptly monitor, freeze and seize the assets of terrorists, be they bank accounts, planes, ships, or vehicles.

The idea is to **prevent** acts of terrorism before they happen, because it will be too costly to start the investigation and undertake the arrests after a hijacked airliner crashes into a high-rise building, or after a water reservoir supplying a city is contaminated with toxic substances. Preventing acts of terrorism can be done only through good intelligence, and good intelligence can be obtained principally through effective surveillance. As aptly stated by US President George Bush, the greatest weapon against this new terrorism is good intelligence. And law enforcers need new police powers to gather such intelligence.

The grant of such police powers, however, must be carefully calibrated to precisely counter a clear and present danger, and must not be so broad as to infringe on constitutionally protected civil liberties of citizens. Legislators will have to craft a finely balanced law that protects both the security and freedom of citizens, taking into account actual conditions in the world today and in years to come. What may be a reasonable search and seizure in time of war may be unreasonable in time of peace. The novel situation is that the "first war of the 21st century" is being fought in peacetime conditions. The world, as well as the law, is entering into uncharted territory.

Under Philippine law, an alien applying for a visa to enter the country can be denied a visa by a Philippine consular official for any reason. An alien without a visa in the act of entering the country can be arrested and immediately deported by immigration officers at the port of entry. But **after** an alien has entered the country, whether illegally or not, he cannot be deported without due process, which means a fair hearing before the Board of Commissioners of the Bureau of Immigration. The alien can be deported only after his illegal entry is established in the hearing. More importantly, during the hearing the immigration commissioner cannot order the alien's arrest, and if the alien is a terrorist, he will be free to escape.

Under US law, the attorney general can order the detention of an alien who may be deportable for terrorism-related activities. While the immigration hearing is going on, the alien remains under arrest and has no opportunity to escape. The alien may of course file a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, but judicial intervention is limited to determining whether a fair hearing is being conducted. Just like in the Philippines, in the United States the power to deport aliens is an executive power and its exercise is beyond review by the courts. A Philippine law on anti-terrorism can authorize the justice secretary to detain aliens deportable for terrorism-related activities.

The terrorists who attacked the World Trade Center used Internet communications to plan, coordinate and report their attacks. For this reason the Bush administration has asked the US Congress to enact legislation that will apply the law on the wiretapping of telephone conversations to the "trap and trace" of Internet communications. The Bush administration has also asked for legislation authorizing courts to issue search warrants, in lieu of wiretap orders, to compel service providers to produce unopened voice mail messages.

The Philippine Anti-Wiretapping Law, which was enacted long before the advent of wireless phones and Internet communications, is a terribly obsolete law. This law prohibits the tapping of "any wire or cable" to intercept a private communication. Apparently, it does not cover the interception of "wireless" communications carried through cellular phones. (Incidentally, this could be a possible defense of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the anti-wiretapping charge against him.) The law also does not authorize the courts to issue wiretap orders in cases of terrorism. In the first place, there is not even a Philippine law that defines terrorism as a crime. The Anti-Wiretapping Law urgently needs a drastic updating.

Congress passed yesterday the Anti-Money Laundering Law which covers hijacking, a terrorism-related activity. But terrorism per se is not covered because there is no specific law against terrorism. Thus, this new law cannot cover deposits that are used for training of pilots belonging to terrorist cells, or for training of terrorists in handling and hauling toxic substances. A terrorist who hijacked one of the airliners that crashed into the World Trade Center learned to fly in the Philippines. At the time of the attack, at least 30 Arab nationals were studying in flying schools in the Philippines.

It is high time for this country to wake up and adopt a law against terrorism. Otherwise, we will be joining an international war against terrorism without the necessary legal tools to win the war.

One night with Martin

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MARTIN Nievera's concert series, what he laughingly referred to as his "special extended extension," is over, so the following isn't a reaction in aid of public relations. I decided to write about his concert at Onstage, Greenbelt's live performance venue, if only in tribute to a performer who seems to throw himself full throttle at every performance. From what I've seen, it seems Martin won't be happy unless he's emptied himself of every note and song in his repertoire by the time the night draws to a close.

I'm not exactly a charter member of his fan club. Though I do think he has a fine voice, I find his TV patter quite tiresome, at times. The hubby, in fact, will demand that I switch channels the minute he catches sight of Martin, especially on his late night talk show. I also hadn't seen a live performance of his, though the glowing reviews of this concert at Onstage, which had been extended for two more months, for a total of 32 performances, had stoked my curiosity.

So when my sister-in-law Soc, who wanted to watch the concert to celebrate her birthday, asked me if I wanted to come, I said yes without hesitation. (I'm guessing I was some form of insurance, in case my brother Nono, due to advancing age (just kidding!), might call it a night after dinner.)

I have no regrets, and am filled with gratitude.

* * *

THE FUN began even before the "curtains" rose. From time to time, pseudo warnings, such as those heard at amusement park rides, entertained the waiting audience. "If you suffer from a heart condition, vertigo, hypertension and motion sickness due to the Martin-Pops scandals, please step out of the line," is just a sample.

But the concert itself began on a quiet, subdued note. "This is not how we usually begin the show," Martin explained, but in the wake of the Sept. 11 events, he said, he was asking everyone to join him in a moment of silence for the victims. He then segued into "This is the Moment," and without breaking momentum, rushed headlong into a medley of dance hits that ushered everyone into three hours of frenetic energy, laughter, suspense and sentiment. Talk about value for money, this is one concert that makes you feel every hard-earned peso you spent for a ticket was rewarded ten-fold.

Suspense? you ask. Well, early on, Martin pointed to two "doors" marked "Restroom" flanking the stage and warned the audience that anyone who wanted to use them would be turned into a "star." We found out soon enough what he meant when he caught sight of the first transgressor and blocked the man's way. When the guy insisted, Martin then explained that it was merely a prop, and pointed him to where the real men's room was. For the next three hours, everyone was on the lookout for people sneaking out for a leak, and even in the middle of a song, Martin would start chasing after them, to loud shrieks of laughter. "Immodium!" he even yelled after one man who literally sprinted out to the hallway when the spotlight caught him.

* * *

IT'S this extraordinary "interactive" quality that sets apart a concert of Martin Nievera, I think.

He has remarkable rapport with the audience, and can banter with, tease and "terrorize" them without crossing the line into offensiveness. At one point, trawling the audience, he spotted a couple of seniors who said they've been married for 57 years, drawing spontaneous applause from everyone. On the spot, Martin sang a medley of love songs dedicated to them, even if he teased them that he knew they'd been married a long time because they were no longer holding hands.

Martin also tried to spot anyone in the audience who had come from abroad "just to watch me." When one woman said she flew in from Hong Kong, he teased her about buying his CDs from a Hong Kong sidewalk. He also told the audience that at a previous performance, he spotted a man from New York and "had been picking on him all night." Toward the show's close, though, Martin called the New Yorker up the stage and asked the man: "Can I give you a hug?" They hugged each other, and even if they barely knew each other, soon found themselves crying on each other's shoulders. "I'm starting a campaign," declared Martin, "I'm going to ask everyone to hug a New Yorker. They need it."

Of course, all this prattle and rapport would have fallen flat if it hadn't floated on the music and songs. Whether singing oldies, Broadway classics, OPM including his original hits, and even "Gary Valenciano imitating Martin Nievera," Martin dazzled with the power of his voice, and the extraordinary artistry of his interpretations. As a reviewer has already pointed out, he even manages to take a pop tidbit like Aiza Seguerra's "Pagdating ng Panahon" and turn it into a truly touching paean to love.

A toast to Martin, then. A title like "Concert King" may flatter, but suffice it to say that he is an artist who is generous with himself and his gifts, big of heart and talent.

* * *

BEFORE THE CONCERT, we had dinner at Prospero's at the Greenbelt row of restaurants. (We found out later that almost all the diners were watching Martin's concert.) It happened that that was a "Komedi Klub" night, featuring Candy Pangilinan doing stand-up comedy before the patrons of Prospero's and its neighboring outlets, as well as a crowd of *uzis*.

Candy's act turned out to be the perfect appetizer to the heavy main meal of Martin, and turned the two hours we had to kill before the concert into an enjoyable interlude. A night out at Greenbelt can be quite a full and satisfying experience, we found out.

In quest of the Arab springtime

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE SUICIDE hijackers' ultimate dream may yet come true if and when America bombs Afghanistan. Young warriors from all over the Islamic world will reverse their own governments' involvement in the US-led coalition, and join the international brigade that will defend the Arab homeland from "infidels." The result will be precisely the self-fulfillment of the "clash of civilizations" that the American analyst Samuel Huntington prophesied.

It is not this "clash" that fuels the hatred for America in the Middle East. Real grievances do. Foremost of these is the whole question of Palestine: how could the world sit by and accept the wrong perpetrated on the Arabs of Palestine? This is an open wound in the heart of almost every Arab regardless of religion. It is begging to be closed.

The classical vision of history to which the Taliban's Mullah Omar and Osama bin Laden subscribe is one that focuses on understanding the causes of an event, pinpointing and passing judgment upon those responsible for it, and acting resolutely to exact justice. This vision rejects the pragmatic path taken by, for example, Yasser Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization. It also condemns much of the Arab world's collusion with America in its aggression against Iraq, starting with Saudi Arabia, whose corrupt rulers Bin Laden despises for allowing American troops to be stationed in the very birthplace of Islam.

It would be a mistake to think that these cataclysmic "wrongs" in Arab history must first be grounded in some deeply personal experience for them to serve as a motive force for the suicidal terrorism that destroyed the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. One of the hijackers, Mohamad Atta, came from an affluent Egyptian family and was educated in Germany. He was not bred in the stone-throwing slums of Palestinian communities. Bin Laden himself had a privileged childhood, attending a modern school in Saudi Arabia, where some of his first teachers were British. That sheltered childhood did not prevent him from enlisting in the Afghan war of independence against the Soviet Union.

The commitment of these individuals to a vision of an Arab springtime in some mythological future is both intellectual, religious and emotional, no matter that we might call it archaic and ultimately self-destructive. A book found in the luggage of Mohamad Atta is supposed to contain the following words of consolation for the warrior who has chosen the path of the suicide terrorist: "When the time of truth comes and zero hour arrives, then straighten out your clothes, open your chest and welcome death for the sake of Allah. Seconds before the target, your last words should be 'There is no God but Allah. Mohammed is his messenger.'"

Again it would be a mistake to take these clues as suggesting that Islam is the driving force for these tragic missions. Certainly their faith strengthened the hijackers' resolve and gave them confidence in what they set out to do. But the decision itself to attack America could not have been an inspiration from Islam, but the direct consequence of a view that saw, and still sees, America as the incarnation of all that is evil in the world.

Perhaps, unlike other terrorist groups, the Sept. 11 hijackers were not so much concerned about triggering a change in American policy, as they wanted to expose the vulnerability and violent nature of America. From their point of view, America will be brought down ultimately by its own actions, just as the USSR's collapse was precipitated by the invasion of Afghanistan. This is a theme that recurs in the public pronouncements of Mullah Omar and Bin Laden.

Of course, America is far from crashing down as a nation. But whether it will emerge from this vicious attack on its system a great country or a severely weakened one is going to depend upon the quality of its response in the coming days. The easy path is for the United States to deploy its fabulous military might and to focus this upon the targets it identifies: today Afghanistan, tomorrow Iraq. That is exactly where Bin Laden wants to find America.

The difficult path is for America to champion a new global solidarity founded on social justice, tolerance and restraint in the face of this monumental tragedy. Such a course of action must at the same time assuage the anger of its citizens and reassure a panic-stricken nation at home, while morally and politically isolating the terrorists wherever they are. America cannot achieve this by military action. Unlike the terrorists who have chosen redemption by death, America is not a desperate country. It must choose life. It cannot allow itself to be drawn into a cycle of violence and counter-terror without eroding the foundation of trust on which its way of life is built.

In the final analysis, only the modernization and democratization of Arab society and culture can cut the oxygen supply that gives life to the Bin Ladens of this world. Indeed, a number of Arab intellectuals have long been critical of their own culture, mindset and tradition. One of them, Abdallah Laroui, author of "The crisis of the Arab intellectual," speaks of the need to go beyond the "legitimate pride" that Arabs take in "the wealth, permanent vitality and universally applicable value of a culture that is so little supported by socio-economic structures."

Time and the world wait for no one; for Laroui, the urgent task of the Arab intellectual is to bring to a close "the long winter of the Arabs."

* * *

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Let the Twin Towers be rebuilt

Javier Galvan

COMMENTARY

ONCE upon a time there were two pristine slender prisms crowning the Manhattan skyline. Even though they were no longer the tallest buildings on earth, they were there just as they have always been, icons of America like the Coca-Cola bottle, Marilyn Monroe, the Liberty Statue and Warhol's Campbell Soup can.

When the World Trade Center Twin Towers were erected, a kind of race was going on. Who will get to the moon first? Who will build the highest building? Who will construct the longest span bridge? Who will make the fastest ever running device on the desert sand or on the water of a calm lake. We who were still kids that time were fascinated by these Olympic achievements: Citius, Altius, Fortius.

For many years, the mythical Empire State Building was the tallest building in the world. The Twin Towers took over the Empire State as an icon of a whole society. They were not just buildings like the old Empire State or the Chrysler Building or the Sears Tower in Chicago. They were two pristine slender prisms crowning the Manhattan skyline, which became inconceivable without them.

A skyscraper is already a singularity itself. But twin skyscrapers are more than a double singularity. They are a reference system, a metaphor for the fear of loneliness, a human being's need for soul mate. Even basketball teams borrowed the concept of "twin towers."

More than the record height, the great achievement of the towers was the simplicity of its design: just two plain prisms without adornment, the epitome of the Modern Movement in Architecture initiated by the great Le Corbussier in the first decades of the 20th century. This simplicity of Minoru Yamasaki's design gave the towers a kind of deep meaning, a philosophical value. In spite of their grandeur, they were closer in a sense to the humbleness and wisdom of the Shintoist zen gardens than to the postmodern high-tech constructions.

Even if the Petrona Towers in Kuala Lumpur are higher, they don't have the grandeur that Twin Towers had. Petrona seems to me kind of kitsch, like the house of a new rich.

As an architect, I usually frown upon the reconstruction of old buildings. History is like it is and cities are transformed by historical events, and you have to accept that. But buildings are stone pages of the book of history, and when these pages don't crumble from age or natural disaster but are destroyed in a horrible way like Twin Towers or Intramuros de Manila, one feels the need to recreate them. When structures that have become a symbol and a part of the identity of a community or of a people are lost, something will be forever missing.

In the same way that Manila lost a substantial part of her identity when Intramuros was destroyed during World War II, the loss of the Twin Towers also means a loss in the identity of a society, the Western society, whose "capital" is New York.

So, I hope the Twin Towers will be rebuilt someday. Not as a symbol of economic power. Not as a symbol of an idol to be adored, which is money. Not as a golden calf. Not as a tower of Babel whose destruction might again have biblical proportions. Let the Twin Towers be rebuilt to shelter organizations that do not only do business but also work on peace and understanding, to prevent the death of innocent children every day, organizations that promote not the interests of a few but of the entire human community.

Let the Twin Towers be rebuilt to shelter organizations working against terrorism and fanaticism, no matter where it happens, be it in Sudan, Spain, the Philippines, Chechnya, Palestine or New York.

You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope some day you'll join us and the world will be as one...

Javier Galvan is the director of Instituto de Cervantes in Manila.

The human scale principle

Candido P. Filio

THE WORLD Trade Center, which disappeared from the face of the earth last Sept. 11, compliments of Osama bin Laden, consisted of twin towers of 110 stories each, rising 411 meters over lower Manhattan. Completed in 1973, the Twin Towers were the tallest buildings in the world until 1974, when they were surpassed by the Sears Tower in Chicago. Designed by Minoru Yamasaki and Emery Roth, they cost $750 million to build.

Serious planners and planning students have to know the significance and legacy of the Twin Towers in development-planning theory and history. Actually, the Japanese-American architect Yamasaki was commissioned to design a tower that was 220 stories high. He refused, saying that it was "beyond human scale." Instead, he proposed to design the Twin Towers rising 110 stories high and won.

Yamasaki did not elaborate on what he meant by "human scale." But it was adopted all over the world as a key principle of development planning. Urbanists and other development experts tried to flesh out human scale by first defining what would be beyond it or how it might be lost. They agreed that for physical developments, it could be lost through excessive sizes or excessive heights. For transport systems, it could be lost through excessive speeds.

Literally, dehumanizing structures and spaces violate the principle of human scale. Physically, Brasilia is beautiful, but it is dehumanizing, because the city was designed for cars—not for people. Even some boulevards in Madrid are considered beyond human scale: they are too wide and unsafe for pedestrians to cross.

In some of his last works, the Greek architect Konstantinos Doxiadis, who is considered the father of modern human settlements, clarified the concept of human scale through the ekistic scale. This is the hierarchy (in ascending order) of human settlements from *polis*—through *metropolis, megalopolis* and *eperopolis*—to *ecumenopolis*. Doxiadis was after the size of the habitat where human interactions would be optimized, i.e., where people would realize the maximum satisfaction of their human needs for employment, living, studying, or recreation, while minimizing the negative effects of commuting, pollution and other environmental hazards.

Thus, the human-scale principle has shown that the ordinary city or polis is too small a habitat, while the megalopolis is too large. Ergo, the metropolis is just right!

This has led to the "twin city" concept. For instance, an established megalopolis, like Shanghai, was deliberately broken up into two metropolises. I questioned twinning for the largest Chinese settlement, because twins are conceived at the same time. But in the United States, some "twin cities" are planned from the very start.

In Thailand, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration is building 10 metropolitan centers within Greater Bangkok to deal with urban problems simultaneously for all time. In Metropolitan Manila, Chair Benjamin Abalos and his gang of politicians and lawyers deal with urban problems *coup par coup* or blow-by-blow. For instance, they try to solve traffic problems *kuno* by reducing the volume of vehicles. The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration would solve traffic problems by reducing the demand for transport.

While the whole world grieves over the loss of lives at the World Trade Center, as a development-planning teacher; I grieve the loss of a great aid in teaching the human-scale principle.

Candido P. Filio is a retired colonel and a retired professor of the University of the Philippines.

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TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

Are we ready for the coming conflict?

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush once called it a "crusade," unwittingly widening the Muslim-Christian divide. The members of the European Union, led by the Belgians, prefer to call it a "mobilization." Dusting off their books, intellectuals have warned against the advent of the "clash of civilizations." And the television newscasts and newspaper reports continue to use the most convenient label, calling it the "new war on terrorism."

Whatever it is called, the public can be sure of one thing: the coming conflict will be nasty, brutish—and long. Filipinos may be willing to accept and even support a quick retaliatory campaign by the international coalition, but are we ready for a conflict without certainty of closure?

Six measures and 14 pillars

Culled from the President's speech before the Philippine Constitution Association on Sept. 26, where she addressed what she called "the most urgent issue in the world today, terrorism."

IN THE international struggle against terrorism, the Philippine government is prepared to undertake the following specific measures:

- One, to join the International Counter-Terrorist Coalition and to work with the United Nations.
- Two, to work closely with the United States on intelligence and security matters concerning terrorism.
- Three, to make available Philippine air space and facilities when these are required as transit or staging point.
- Four, to contribute logistical support in the form of food supply, medicines and medical personnel.
- Five, subject to the concurrence of Congress, to provide combat troops if there is an international call for such troops.
- Six, to prevent the flow of funds to terrorist groups to the Philippines by passing and implementing legislation against money laundering.

"The impact of our involvement in the war against terrorism will not be measured by our contribution to the international coalition alone. To a greater degree, it will be measured by our own achievements in defeating terrorism within our own territorial boundaries. We must never lose sight of our immediate and overriding objective: identify the terrorists within our country, mop up their networks, stop them and destroy their cause."

1. Organize the whole enterprise and delineate clear lines of responsibility and accountability (including the cabinet oversight committee on internal security).
2. Anticipate events more efficiently and effectively (with the national security advisers undertaking special intelligence coordinating projects).
3. Strengthen internal focus against terrorism (with all government units "down to the barangay level" involved).
4. Hold accountable all public and private organizations and personalities abetting or aiding terrorism.
5. Synchronize internal efforts with the global outlook (including the fast-tracking of a regional consensus with Indonesia and Malaysia in the war against terrorism).
6. Combine a policy of tactical counter force with a set of strategic legal measures.
7. Pursue broader inter-faith dialogue to promote Christian and Muslim solidarity.
8. Exercise vigilance against movements of suspected persons, firearms, explosives, raw materials of explosives, toxic materials and biological materials.
9. Coordinate preparations and actions in the event of catastrophic terrorist attacks.
10. Draft a comprehensive security plan for critical infrastructure.
11. Support the immediate transfer out of overseas Filipino workers.
12. Modernize the armed forces and the national police considering current and emergent needs to contain the global terrorist threat.
13. Seek the support of media to promote consensus and counsel prudence.
14. Take cognizance of terrorism's political, social and economic underpinnings.

The use of war metaphors in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks obscures one essential element of the coming conflict: the brunt of the work will be borne by civilians caught in the middle

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ / PAGE DESIGN: MARLONE RUBIO

With our people's help, we will not fail

BY LT. GEN. JAIME DE LOS SANTOS
Commanding General, Philippine Army

ARE we ready? Such a question may entail a lot of rethinking. One cannot readily assess our readiness for the next war if we will set clear parameters this early.

I will stress the positive and say that we are indeed prepared for the coming war.

First, we already have strong support from the international community, particularly from the United States. It is an undeniable fact that we have been fighting the menace of terrorism in our country for several years now. Now that the wave of worldwide support to eradicate such a menace is going in our favor, we can then ascertain that indeed we have the external support to continue with our counter-terrorist actions.

Second, we have heard the determined stance of our commander-in-chief. Our President is determined to go all the way for our nation's security and survival. She has set the parameters for our participation through her "14 pillars of policy and action." The guides for action include deployment of combat troops and medical personnel, and the use of Philippine air space and facilities as transit and staging grounds for the US-led International Counter-Terrorist Coalition. The 14 pillars also include securing all critical installations and public places from any catastrophic attack, preventing the entry of toxic and biological weapons, and identifying the terrorists in the country and destroying their network. With these clear guidelines, the Philippine Army is very much prepared to jump into action. We have the clear mandate and we will go whenever our Chief Executive will tell us.

Third, we now have a citizenry that has grown tired and weary of acts of terrorism. We have fallen victim far too often to terrorist atrocities: the unabated spate of kidnappings, mall bombings, attacks on communities, sabotage of economic installations and so on. A cabinet oversight committee on international security has been formed, and eventually the entire government structure down to the barangay level will be involved. Our citizenry is now being mobilized for action as well.

Parameters of readiness

With these types of external and internal support we are getting, especially the mandate given us by our leader and the whole Filipino citizenry, I can only reiterate that we are indeed prepared for the coming war.

Now, if we are to discuss the extent of our readiness, particularly the Philippine Army's resort to military action, then that is another story.

To fight the next war, we must be armed accordingly. We already have our AFP Modernization Program, and capability upgrading is slowly heading in that direction. We have reprioritized our acquisition of special items—meaning, we will first procure the items that we need for our internal security matter that has now grown into a full-blown international concern. Given these realities in our Armed Forces and in the Army in particular, I can say that the extent of our preparation is at a minimal level. And to ask if we are ready for toxic or biological attack, as new tools of terrorism, is to answer our own question.

Long, tedious struggle

This new war we are talking about knows no end. It will be a long and tedious struggle against the forces of evil. It is not like previous wars we have fought, where we had clear objectives and targets and, once a war was over, we would march in a victory parade. In the new-war scenario, the campaign may be too long for the nation to support.

Already, we are talking of our nation's ability to finance a campaign that is boundless and context-less. Our commander-in-chief is considering consulting Congress regarding appropriations for this impending conflict. We are getting good signals of support but how long will such a reception last? Do we indeed have the means to wage such a campaign?

I would like to remind the public that we have experienced such insufficiencies in our previous campaigns but our Philippine Army has always done us proud. For this coming war, we intend to prove equal to the task. We will carry on with the mandate as best we can, even to the extent of offering our lives as the supreme sacrifice for our nation's security and survival. We will also go all out!

But I believe we are not alone in this struggle. Institutionally, this campaign may be short of funds and resources, but in terms of people, it is a campaign that will never run out of strong resolve and determination. I still believe in the Filipino's *bayanihan* spirit. In this upcoming conflict, we can always rely on our citizenry for support—be it information, provision, transportation, food allocation or other such. The conflict that we were talking about is not only a concern for the military. Society as a whole has been affected by terrorists' atrocities. It will continue to be affected once our people will not act on it promptly. With our people's help, who can fail? We will go through this as a nation.

More than ever, our preparedness can now be outlined with a holistic framework based on integration, cooperation and coordination with all sectors of society, internal and external.

We have fresh support from the global community, led by the US. We have the mandate from our commander-in-chief. We have our modernization program to guide us in our capability upgrade. Most important, we have the Filipino citizenry to support us in our campaign.

Are we prepared for the next war? Yes, we are! To what extent and how long? We'll cross that bridge when we get there.

The youngest casualties?

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Malacañang's tough talk about war is rattling the country's children, who have been caught unprepared and now deal with news that adults leave unexplained.

Short of denouncing the war rhetoric coming from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, clinical psychologists have asked the national government to study the social and psychological ramifications of a war declaration first before the Palace broadcasts its policies.

Letty Miana, counselor of the Baguio-based gender rights group, Ebgan Inc., argues that government must "package" its policy statements in a manner that would not reinforce the panic already being generated by dramatic television footage and photographs of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

"Already, children are picking up the fears and agitation of their parents (about the country's war footing), but the fears are not being explained properly by a very protective adult population. The President's declaration of war made it more complicated for them," says Marlene de Castro, director of the Baguio Center for Young Adults (BCYA), which has been conducting youth counseling sessions since the week of the attacks.

In the war-torn parts of Mindanao, Miana says war fears felt by children had mounted ever since the conflict resumed last year.

"The country never allowed itself to heal last year's war wounds. Instead of healing the gaps between government and Muslim families, (the President's) rhetoric is (worsening) these because the US war implies an attack on Arabs, and by extension, all Muslims," she says.

De Castro says many teenagers here were surprised by the President's offer of full support for an "all-out war against terrorism" being launched by the US, despite government's perceived failures in addressing the Abu Sayyaf crisis.

"Worse, the children have seen for themselves that government has been unable to deal with the Mindanao crises properly. They see for themselves that the soldiers have not been able to fight off the terrorist Abu Sayyaf, and they ask their parents pointblank about these. These are actual, documented questions raised by the pre-teens themselves," she says.

"Unfortunately, parents in the urban setting have been too protective and have not been addressing these questions too well. That means many young adults and teenagers or pre-teens have to cope on their own, and that has merely reinforced repressed aggression and fears."

Talking points

CALL it what we will, but the coming conflict is essentially a guerilla campaign. It may include dramatic use of conventional warfare tactics, but its strategic objective is decidedly unconventional: the aim is not so much to control geography but to control a population. The bottom line for the eventual success (or failure) of any counter-terrorism campaign, as Gen. De los Santos' comments make clear, lies in the quality of popular support.

The Army chief proceeds from the top down, his thoughts mirroring the chain of command. He begins with the highest authorities, but it is possible to argue that the meat of his argument—that the Philippines is ready for the coming conflict—lies lower down the decision chain.

"In this upcoming conflict, we can always rely on our citizenry for support—be it information, provision, transportation, food allocation or other such." His confidence on this score is based partly on the insight that the Filipino public has grown weary of acts of terrorism, weary enough to finally join the fight.

"The conflict that we were talking about is not only a concern for the military. Society as a whole has been affected by terrorists' atrocities." (He is careful to note that the conflict will not depend on a military solution alone.)

He clinches the point with one of the more effective weapons in the arsenal of argumentation: the unambiguous rhetorical question. "With our people's help, who can fail? We will go through this as a nation."

Just what the rest of the nation thinks about the coming conflict is exactly the point raised by Mr. Cabreza's article. Among the country's youth, the story suggests, the sudden explosion of war-burdened language has had an unsettling effect.

"Already, children are picking up the fears and agitation of their parents (about the country's war footing), but the fears are not being explained properly by a very protective adult population," he quotes a clinical psychologist as saying. It does not bode well for the prospects of a sustained campaign—if the coming conflict were a conventional affair. But guerillas are prepared to accept less than clear-cut results. "The conventional army loses if it does not win," Henry Kissinger once said. "The guerrilla wins if he does not lose." – *J. Nery*

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

UN backs US war on terror

UNITED NATIONS—The UN Security Council voted unanimously Friday for a US-sponsored resolution obliging member states to crack down on the sources of financial and logistical support for terrorist groups.

The sweeping demands on governments—backed by the threat of sanctions or military force—were approved by the 15 council members in barcly 24 hours of consultations, an extraordinarily brief lapse of time for the council.

The draft resolution, calling on member states "to work together urgently to prevent and suppress terrorist acts," was voted into international law less than three weeks after kamikaze terrorists using hijacked commercial airliners destroyed the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center and part of the Pentagon near Washington.

John Negroponte, the newly appointed US ambassador to the United Nations, described Resolution 1373 as unprecedented in the work of the world body.

"It obliges all member states to deny financing, support and safe harbor for terrorists; it will also expand information-sharing among UN members to combat international terrorism," he told reporters.

"And there will be a Security Council mechanism to monitor the implementation on a continuous basis," he added.

The resolution puts a legal obligation on all member states to "prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts."

It was adopted under Chapter Seven of the UN Charter, which provides for economic and diplomatic sanctions or the use of military force against countries, which fail to comply with council decisions.

The resolution sets up a special Security Council committee and tells all governments to report to it within 90 days on steps taken to implement the resolution. *AFP*

US MARINES move training ordnance on the flight deck of the warship USS Theodore Roosevelt Sept. 27, as an F/A-18 Hornet takes off behind them. A US-led military strike against the Taliban looms. REUTERS

Probers focusing on small group seen plotting attacks

WASHINGTON—US and European authorities are zeroing in on a small group of men in England, Germany and the United Arab Emirates believed to have plotted the Sept. 11 attack and provided assistance to the hijackers, government officials said Friday.

Some of the men are in custody, including an Algerian pilot that British prosecutors identified Friday as the primary instructor for some of the hijackers. The FBI found his name on a document in a car left by the hijackers at Dulles Airport outside Washington, one US official said.

Other suspected plotters remain at large and are the subject of an FBI-led manhunt, the officials told The Associated Press. Several belong to various groups loosely associated with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Among the groups are various cells of the Algerian-based Armed Islamic Group that joined forces with Bin Laden, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"One should not focus on one individual, but focus one's attention on a series of networks across the world," FBI director Robert Mueller said Friday.

One of those sought is a man in the United Arab Emirates who was mailed a package from Mohamed Atta, the suspected leader of the hijacking teams, one official said. The package contained money and documents and was mailed by Atta a few days before he hijacked a plane in Boston and flew it into the World Trade Center.

The information about the origins of the hijacking plot emerged as the Justice Department announced that more than 480 people have been arrested or detained in the probe.

Investigators also released a four-page handwritten document left behind by the hijackers that included instructions on how to carry out their attack and Islamic religious references.

"Try not to have others watch you while you're uttering your prayers. Don't be confused, and don't be nervous," the document advised. "Look cheerful and satisfied, because you're doing a job which is loved by God."

Attorney General John Ashcroft said the missive was a "shocking and disturbing view into the mindsets" of the attackers and "a stark reminder of how these hijackers grossly perverted the Islamic faith to justify their terroristic acts." *AP*

Pakistan-Taliban talks fail

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Hopes were fading for a diplomatic solution to the standoff in Afghanistan after a Pakistani delegation returned home empty-handed from a mission to persuade the Taliban to hand over accused terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden.

A delegation of senior Islamic clerics, together with Pakistani intelligence chief Gen. Mahmood Ahmed, tried and failed Friday to persuade the Taliban to deliver Bin Laden, the main suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Pakistan—which supports the United States in the confrontation, but is also the world's only country to recognize the Taliban as Afghanistan's government—hoped a successful mission could have averted a US-led military strike against the Taliban.

Military action appeared increasingly likely with the news that US special forces were already conducting scouting missions in Afghanistan. A senior Bush administration official in Washington, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed Friday that the US forces had arrived in Afghanistan, in a possible prelude to military action.

Friday's was Pakistan's second mission to the Taliban since the Sept. 11 attack. The first ended with a decision by Afghanistan's grand Islamic council to ask Bin Laden to leave voluntarily—something he has not done.

One Pakistani representative in Friday's delegation said he believed the Taliban's top leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, was "not afraid of war" with America.

In daylong talks in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, the Taliban's home base, participants on both sides said Mullah Omar refused even to discuss Bin Laden. *AP*

EVEREADY

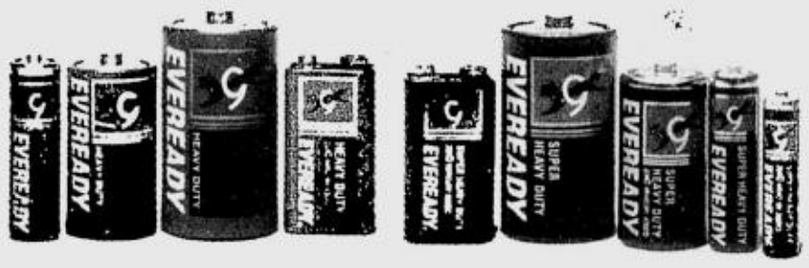
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

On August 22, 2001, elements of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) raided a suspected distributor of counterfeit Eveready Size "AA" Batteries in Tondo, Manila. At about 2:00 p.m., the NBI Agents served search warrants issued by the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 1 on PRIMITIVE ENTERPRISES at Rooms 101 and 203 of the Emperor Building, 723 Padre Herrera Street, Tondo, Manila.

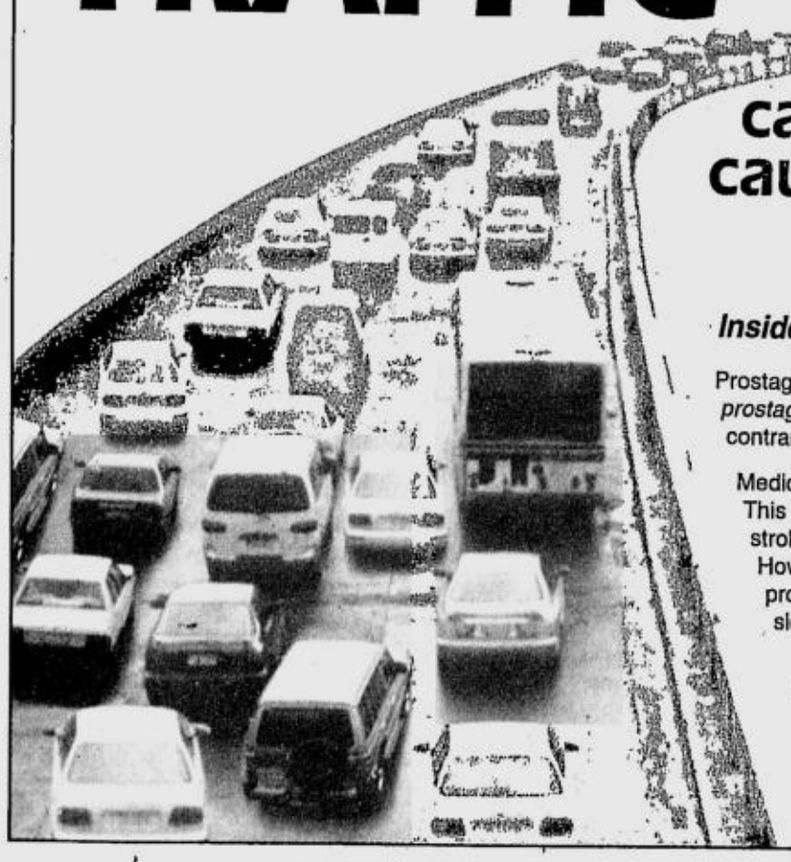
NBI operatives seized a total of 12,380 pieces of fake size "AA" No. 1215 and No. 1015 Eveready batteries. Energizer Philippines, Inc. is now preparing the necessary criminal and civil complaint-charges against the said establishment and its alleged owner/proprietor, Mr. Dennis Ong/Prudencio Caraan. If convicted, Mr. Caraan may face penalties of imprisonment from two (2) to five (5) years per charge of unfair competition and trademark infringement plus fines of ₱ 50,000 to ₱ 200,000 per conviction.

Energizer Philippines, Inc. is warning all establishments selling or distributing fake Eveready Products that it will not hesitate to bear down the full weight of the law on any party, individual or establishment engaged in the traffic of fake products.

PLATON MARTINEZ FLORES
SAN PEDRO & LEAÑO
Counsel for Energizer Philippines, Inc.
6/F TUSCAN Bldg.,
114 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City



HEAVY TRAFFIC can cause HEART ATTACK



Inside your body, a "traffic jam" caused by BLOOD CLOTTING can trigger a serious and fatal heart attack!

Prostaglandins are substances in the body that control blood clotting. *"Good prostaglandins"* are responsible for making blood flow smoothly. On the contrary, there are *"bad prostaglandins"* that cause heart attacks.

Medical science discovered that aspirin has an effect on prostaglandins. This is the reason why it has gained popularity as an anti-heart attack and stroke medicine. Aspirin has the ability to block prostaglandin production. However, higher doses of aspirin (80-300mg) kill both *"good"* and *"bad"* prostaglandins, aside from causing the unwanted aspirin gastro-intestinal side-effects.

COR-30 is a brand that contains only **30 mg.** of aspirin. This low dose has the same effect as the high dose in preventing heart attack and stroke without blocking the production of *"good prostaglandins"*.

*SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine 1991; 325, 1261-6

This makes it even more effective in preventing heart attack. Plus, the low dose greatly minimizes the known side-effects of aspirin found mostly in high doses of the drug.

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First anniversary of intifada one of revolt's bloodiest days

GAZA CITY—The first anniversary of the Palestinian intifada erupted Friday into one of the bloodiest days of an uprising, which has already cost more than 830 lives, as seven Palestinians were killed and more than 70 were injured in an explosion of rage against Israel.

Violence swept the West Bank and Gaza Strip while Israel deployed hundreds of police around the Al Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City, where rioting at a visit by Ariel Sharon—the opposition leader and now prime minister—heralded the start of a year of unrest.

Despite restrictions, around 10,000 Muslims turned out for weekly prayers.

The wave of unrest rocked a newly declared ceasefire even as Israeli and Palestinian officials held their first joint security meeting in Tel Aviv to find ways of implementing the truce deal and easing the situation on the ground.

Thousands of Palestinians turned out for demonstrations and to observe three minutes silence at 12:30 p.m., and the rallies quickly degenerated into stone throwing against Israel Army positions.

Israeli troops responded with rifle fire, often with live bullets, killing three Palestinians, including a 10-year-old boy in the volatile West Bank city of Hebron, where another young Palestinian man was also killed.

Clashes hit a fever pitch in Hebron, where 14 other Palestinians and three Israelis, including a soldier, were also hurt in a spate of incidents.

A third Palestinian was killed in an outlying district of Bethlehem to the north, where seven others were injured. The Israeli Army said its troops opened fire after an explosive device was thrown at their post.

A fourth man died of wounds sustained in clashes in Ramallah last week.

And late Friday in the Rafah sector of the southern Gaza Strip at least three more Palestinians were killed in a strong explosion near a mosque, Palestinian hospital sources said. *AFP*

A PALESTINIAN boy leads a group of his countrymen carrying a wounded boy during clashes between Palestinian stone-throwers and Israeli troops near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the Gaza Strip Sept. 28. Israeli soldiers killed two Palestinians in the West Bank on Friday in violence, which further strained a ceasefire on the first anniversary of an uprising against Israeli occupation. REUTERS

Journalist shot dead in Northern Ireland

LURGAN, Northern Ireland—A Catholic journalist working for a leading Irish Sunday newspaper was shot dead in a drive-by attack in Lurgan, southwest of Belfast, next to his Protestant wife, a source close to the security services said early yesterday.

Police earlier said that a man, aged in his 50s, was walking along a road with a woman late Friday when a car drove by from where a number of shots were fired in his direction.

He was shot in a mixed Protestant-Catholic area on the edge of town in the street close to his home at around 10:30 p.m., the Royal Ulster Constabulary added.

The source said that Martin O'Hagan, a journalist working in Northern Ireland for the Dublin-based Sunday World—a tabloid which prides itself on being a no-holds-barred paper—was threatened a number of times during his career as a reporter.

He wrote predominantly about security issues surrounding hardline Protestants in County Armagh, where Lurgan is situated, the source added.

Police did not say whether the shooting was a paramilitary attack amid rising tensions in nearby Belfast between hardline Protestants and police.

The streets of north Belfast were quiet late Friday after two nights of serious sectarian violence in the area, which left 46 officers injured.

The British government gave a final warning Friday to one of Northern Ireland's biggest Protestant militias after it promised to stop provoking the violence.

In a dramatic about-turn, Northern Ireland Secretary John Reid said he had been 90 minutes away from declaring the Ulster Defense Association's ceasefire formally over when it came up with the pledge.

The effect of declaring the UDA's ceasefire at an end—a damning censure—would have been that scores of its members risked being returned to jail.

But Reid, speaking after a summer of sectarian tension in north Belfast, warned that he was monitoring the situation every hour.

"This is a wake-up call for those who think they can drag Northern Ireland back into the chaos, the violence and the sectarian hatred of the past," he said.

Reid said he was in no doubt the UDA had been involved in the violence, and that he had intended to formally declare its ceasefire over. *AFP*

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

The following applied/have been nominated for the position of ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT:

		Date of Birth	
1.	Balane, Ruben F.	July 4, 1941	nominated & w/conformity
2.	Carpio, Antonio T.	Oct. 10, 1949	nominated & w/conformity
3.	Corona, Renato C.	Oct. 15, 1948	nominated & w/conformity
4.	De Castro, Soledad Cagampang	Dec.15, 1944	personally applied
5.	De la Cruz, Romeo C.	Nov. 15, 1936	nominated & w/conformity
6.	Demetriou, Harriet Obias	Nov. 19, 1946	nominated & w/conformity
7.	Garchitorena, Francis E.	Jan. 8, 1938	personally applied
*8.	Garcia, Cancio C.	Oct. 20, 1937	automatically considered
*9.	Jacinto, Godardo A.	Aug. 20, 1936	automatically considered
*10.	Martinez, Maria Alicia Austria	Dec. 19, 1940	automatically considered
11.	Rama, Dario C.	Apr. 29, 1939	personally applied
12.	Reyes, Mariano Ramon T.	Aug. 31, 1939	personally applied
13.	Sandoval, Edilberto G.	June 20, 1941	personally applied
*14.	Verzola, Eubulo G.	Mar 7, 1936	automatically considered
15.	Vinluan, Rogelio A.	May 7, 1937	nominated & w/conformity

The public may submit any information, written report, sworn complaint or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants, not later than **TUESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2001**, to:

The Secretariat, Judicial and Bar Council
Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Manila
Tel. No. 524-7309 FAX No. 525-3208

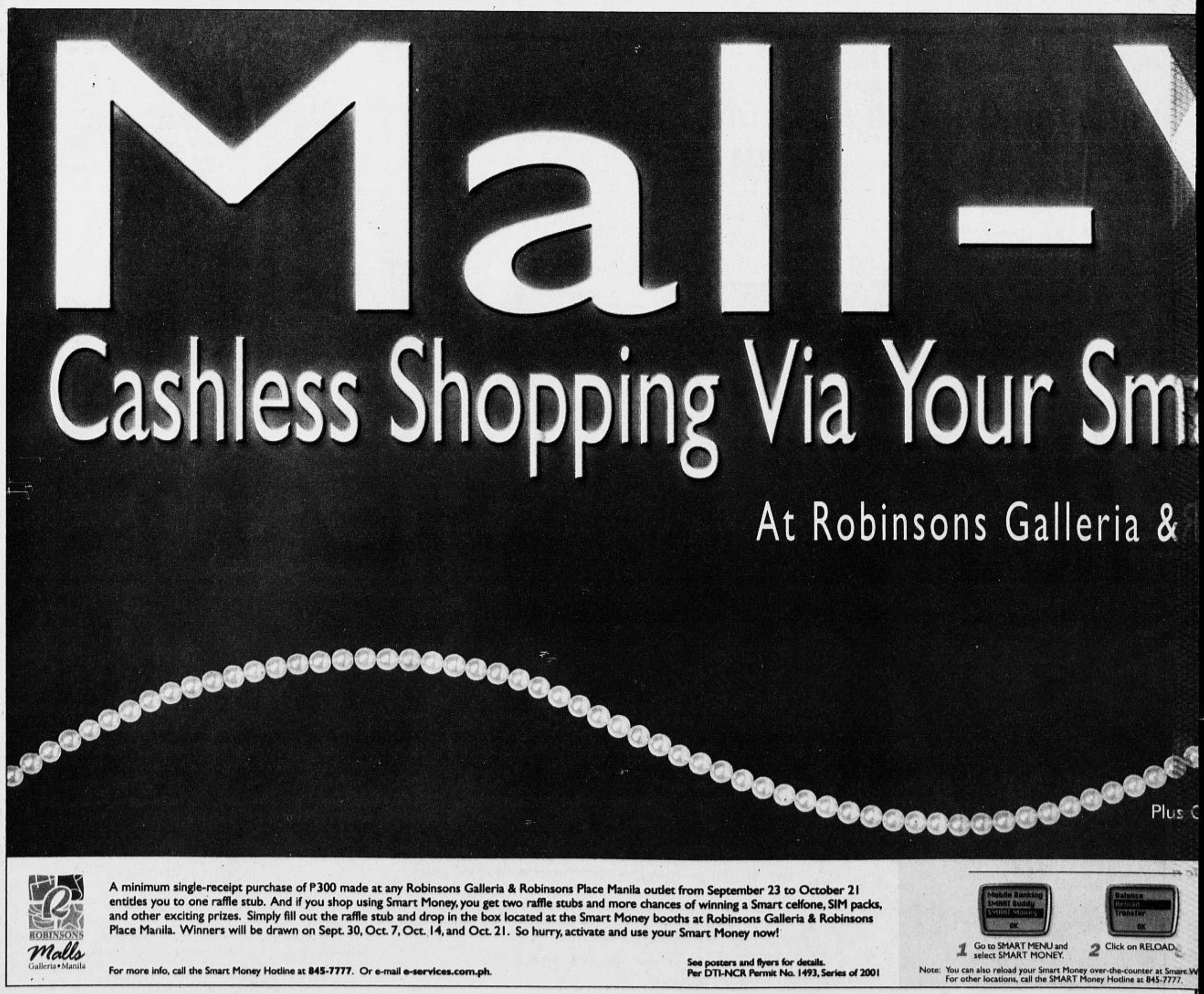
The following are not included in the list as they can no longer be nominated because of age, pursuant to Rule 8, Sec. 2 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council:

1. Gupit, Fortunato I. Jr.
2. Tuquero, Artemio G.

27 September 2001.

(Sgd.) **LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO**
Clerk of Court
Officio Secretary

**** REVISED — automatically considered per JBC policy***



POLICE photo released Sept. 28 shows the weaponry used by the gunman who killed 14 people during the regional parliament session in Zug, Switzerland, on Thursday. Picture shows (left to right) a combat rifle, a pump-action shotgun, a pistol and a revolver with their ammunition. REUTERS

Swiss town struggling to understand massacre

ZUG, Switzerland—The picture-postcard Swiss town of Zug will remain in mourning this weekend as it struggles to come to terms with the massacre of 14 politicians, in an act which deeply shocked this peaceful Alpine country.

Police admitted that many questions remain unanswered after the shooting Thursday by a lone gunman acting apparently from a grudge stemming for a dispute with a local bus company.

"Switzerland in mourning," screamed the mass-market daily Blick with pictures of the victims, and a photo of President Moritz Leuenberger paying homage to the victims at a ceremony Thursday evening.

"Madness with a face," said the local daily Neue Zuger Zeitung in a front-page editorial.

"Only a few days ago when religious fanatics plunged America into fear and panic, we too also shared their feelings. But yesterday with the mad act in Zug the devastation was palpable in our own homes," it said.

Swiss flags are to fly at half mast across the country, while security is being stepped up in 26 regional parliaments as well as federal government offices in Bern.

But in Zug, key questions remain to be answered in the coming days.

"We don't know how this man obtained the weapons," said police chief Urs Huerlimann, listing the mini-arsenal which 57-year-old Friedrich Leibacher used for the bloody attack Thursday.

Leibacher was wearing combat uniform—including a black jacket emblazoned with "police"—when he stormed the Zug regional parliamentary assembly, using an assault rifle, a pump-action rifle and too handguns.

According to police records, Leibacher—described by those who knew him as a loner but reasonably normal—had three weapons licenses, issued in 1996 and 1998. *AFP*

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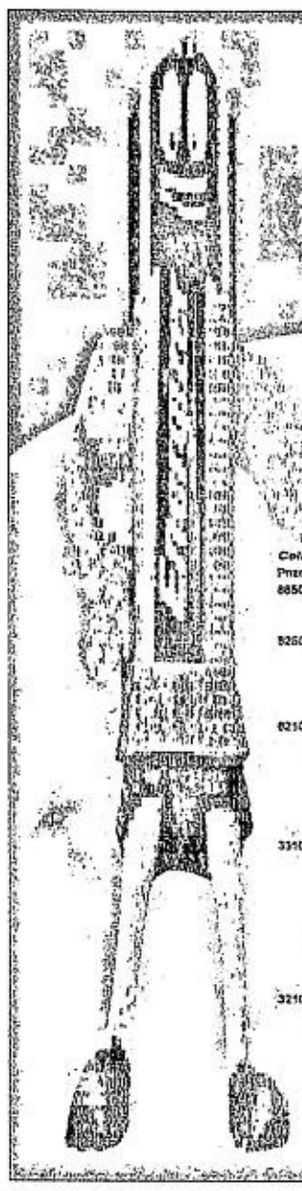

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	Roberto S. Encina	Pasig City
6210	Ma. Josefa P. Crawford	Pasay City
	Glenda G. Macatangay	Makati City
	Lachelle C. Rivera	San Juan
	Ma. Jennifer G. Sull	Makati City
	Graciella Lopez	QC
	Baldwin John N. Gotinga	QC
	Ma. Susan Supremo	QC
3310	Amelia C. Aguinaldo	Pasay City
	Dionne Roy B. Tumanong	Tondo Manila
	Elena n. Cruz	Marikina City
	Josefino P. Armenta	QC
	Dante P. Mosquera	Sampaloc Manila
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3210	Gemma Belo C. Sebastian	Valenzuela City
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	Jose L. Tenorio	Caloocan City
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6250	Nora A. Cotoltro	Pampanga
	Dante Fermin	Tuguegarao
6210	Rechelle Macalindong	Batangas
	Irene A. Auron	Cavite
3310	Ignacio D. Dumangang, Jr.	Nueva Vizcaya
	Raul A. Balute	Laguna City
	Joycelyn P. Ronquillo	Baguio City
3210	Nelson Serrano	Luzona City
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	Sibylyn Font	Roxas City
3310	Lourdes P. Dolli	Roxas City
	Mary Loretel Rama	Cebu City
3210	Lynne A. Jubuena	Iloilo City
	Juliet Ampong	Bohol

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	Gena A. Conjoyo	Davao City
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ESTER ZOSIMO
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FELGER M ZUNIGA
Felisberto Maliwi
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Genrio Nunez
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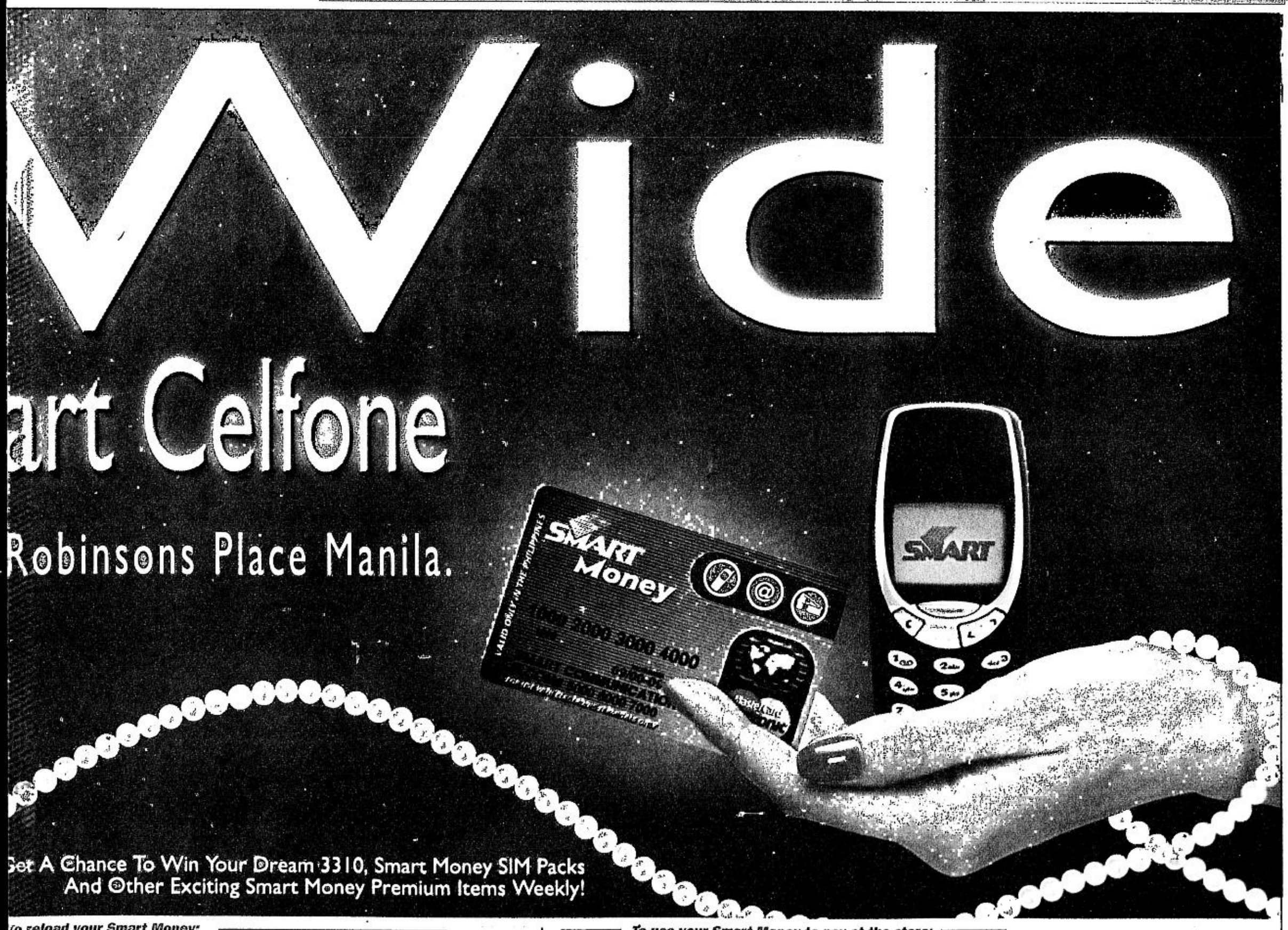

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country wil be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research/09/30/01

ROUNDUP

8 nabbed for stealing

BALANGA CITY—Police arrested eight men suspected of stealing 500 bags of soya meals worth more than P500,000 loaded in a 10-wheel truck on Tuesday. Supt. Perfecto Palad, Bataan police director, said the truck was about to deliver the soya meals to a food firm in Bulacan when stopped by armed men posing as policemen. The suspects are now detained at the police headquarters at Camp Tolentino here. Seized from them were homemade .357 and .38-cal. revolvers, a fan knife and a police uniform.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Councilors league poll

INDANG, Cavite—The Cavite Councilors League (CCL) elected three-term councilor Jose Rozel E. Hernandez of Rosario town as its new president during a meeting on Sept. 18 at the Rolle Hall of the Cavite State University. Hernandez, 29, was unanimously voted by his peers to succeed Felix "Jango" Grepo, who resigned on Aug. 30 to focus his attention on his new task as regional chair of the Philippine Councilors League.

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

28 MILF rebs surrender

KIDAPAWAN CITY—A top leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front operating in Cotabato province surrendered on Thursday, along with 27 of his men. Gani Saligan, field commander of the MILF's 6th Battalion, also apologized to Gov. Emmanuel Piñol for staging the ambush against the official a few years ago. Saligan, tagged as the brains in the kidnapping of Chinese-Filipino trader Pepaw Ang in 1997, led the ambush on Piñol, who was then mayor of M'lang town. Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson said Saligan was not a legitimate MILF leader.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Alert on 'sura' up

DAVAO CITY—The city's veterinarians have issued an alarm against a deadly animal disease which has infected some farms here. Dr. Cerelyn Pinili, acting assistant city veterinarian, said the "sura" disease could break out as animals from endemic areas such as Cotabato province are being brought here. Sura is caused by a parasite (*Trypanosoma evansi*) and commonly afflicts cattle, pigs, goats, dogs and horses. At least 284 infected farm animals from Toril, Calinan and some parts of Paquibato districts have so far been treated.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Fish port fees to be raised

ROXAS CITY—The Libas Fishing Port in Barangay Libas here has accumulated P1.8 million in losses since 1991 when the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority turned over port operations to the city. To cover for the losses, port supervisor Nereus Leo Azarcon asked the city council to increase the port rates by 113 percent. But the council's committee on economic enterprise recommended an increase of an average of only 54 percent.

Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

6 arrested in drug bust

ROXAS CITY—A suspected drug peddler was arrested along with five others during a raid on a house on Railway Street on Monday. Arrested with Ramy Valencia were Jobel Lema, Reynante Alejo, Jose Calinao, Gilberto Barredo and Roger Aquino, 45. The six were allegedly caught in the act of using shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) during the raid conducted by the Provincial Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force. Allegedly seized from them were eight sachets of suspected shabu, four sachets of suspected dried marijuana leaves and shabu paraphernalia.

Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Gang leader nabbed

PALO, Leyte—Police last week arrested the alleged leader of the Ilonggo-Waray-Waray Gang, which has been believed to be behind a series of bank robberies in Manila. Reports reaching the Police Regional Office identified the suspect as Vicente Lubnasin, 42, of this town. A report said that after a month-long surveillance, policemen from the intelligence division and Basey collared Lubnasin while he was driving a red Mitsubishi Lancer car. Lubnasin is the subject of an arrest warrant issued in Quezon City.

Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Visayas trade fair

TACLOBAN CITY—About P46.27-million worth of Eastern Visayas native products was sold during a trade fair held at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City on Sept. 12-16. The Department of Trade and Industry regional office said the "Bahandi 2001" surpassed its P40-million sales target by P6 million. Cynthia Nierras, DTI regional director, said the sales included P5.37 million in cash and P40.9 million in booked sales. Some 80 exhibitors joined the trade fair, which displayed *sinamay* place mats, *guinit* hats, abaca products, *banig* (mat), fashion accessories, delicacies and other native products.

Vicente S. Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cops to host 'Gen-X party' for foreign studes

BY VINCENT CABREZA AND FRANK CIMATU
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—About 400 foreign students can look forward this semestral break to a party for which the city police are footing the bill.

Chief Supt. Virtus Gil, Cordillera police director, invited Sudanese, Nepalese and other foreign students "of the Islamic faith" to a still unscheduled "Generation X party" during a dialogue here on Friday.

The meeting, which was attended by Maranao migrants and local civic leaders, was Gil's first attempt to link up with the local Muslim community following the launching of a barangay-level anti-crime network here.

The network outlines a checkpoint system even for the most remote communities.

The system, to be led by 10 community volunteers in each designated barangay, is a measure against the increasing armed robbery cases here in the last two months, Gil said.

"It's just cocktails really . . . I'll spend for everything . . . The police just want to assure our foreign guests that they will be treated well in Baguio. After all, I was treated well in other countries. It's important that we show you the same (goodwill)," he said.

"If the food's good, trust that we'd all be there," said Joshi Sikha, an Indian and president of the 200-member Foreign Students Association (FSA) of the Saint Louis University.

The SLU has 200 foreign students, but only 30 of them are Muslims.

Niru Majumder, 22, a Bangladeshi and president of the 194-member Foreign Students Organization based in the University of Baguio, said the party would be a welcome respite for Asian or Middle Eastern students who pine for home.

Gil only asked the foreign students and the Muslim traders to police their own groups.

Local politics still bewilder many foreign students who feel that city residents treat them as villains after the Sept. 11 terror attack in New York, Majumder said.

The Bureau of Immigration said less than 2,000 aliens based here have been able to reprocess their annual documentation papers, although more than 2,000 others failed to visit its office.

"There could be about 3,000 to 4,000 foreigners in Baguio today, but most are American expatriates or Korean migrants. Only a fraction are students," Antonio Prieto, BI Baguio chief, said.

The SLU has the largest foreign student population in Baguio, but most are Filipino-Americans who rarely associate with their Asian and Middle Eastern counterparts, Sikha said.

It is the UB, however, which is dominated by Muslim foreign students, according to documents obtained by the INQUIRER.

Khalifa was adviser of Abu core–Akbar

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY—Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar has confirmed that Osama bin Laden's brother-in-law, Mohammad Jamaal Khalifa, was the adviser to an eight-man core group that started the now dreaded Abu Sayyaf in 1989.

Akbar said Khalifa, alleged point man of Bin Laden in the Philippines, was also the one who directly channeled funds and other types of support to the Moro extremist group from 1989 under the leadership of Ustadz Abubakar Abdurajak Janjalani.

Aside from financing the activities of the group, Khalifa released money for infrastructure projects, such as the construction of *madaris* (Arabic schools), and water system and livelihood programs, he said.

"You could see him giving out projects, but his main job was to assist the core group," Akbar told the INQUIRER.

But the Abu Sayyaf was not the only organization that had received funds from Bin Laden through Khalifa.

Akbar admitted that his group, the Jamattat (Tableegh), also became the beneficiary of Khalifa in 1989 for the establishment of a bakery in Barangay Tabuk, which was later seized by the Janjalanis.

Khalifa channeled the fund for the bakery project through the International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO).

Akbar defended his group's receipt of fund from the IIRO which, he said, was a legitimate organization and widely viewed as working for the benefit of Muslims in Southern Philippines.

Akbar said Khalifa had no inkling that the funds that reached the emerging Abu Sayyaf would be used for criminal activities, such as kidnapping.

"He could have thought that he was helping a legitimate guerrilla organization," he said.

Akbar believes that 60 to 70 percent of Khalifa's resources intended for Basilan went to the Abu Sayyaf and other organizations, such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front.

"*Maaaring ginamit ito sa proyekto, eskwelahan, baril, bala, panggiyera, lahat-lahat na* (These could have been used for projects, schools, guns, ammunition, war activities, and all)," he said.

Akbar's claim corroborated an earlier statement by MILF chair Salamat Hashim last year.

In an interview with foreign journalists and the INQUIRER, Hashim had said that Khalifa poured a considerable amount of Bin Laden's money on Muslim areas, which were channeled through the rebel organization.

"These money were used for various infrastructure projects such as mosques and *madaris*," Hashim said.

Pressed whether the MILF has received money to fund its warfare, Hashim had given a vague answer: "What do you think?"

The military has always maintained that Bin Laden gave millions of pesos to the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf for the purchase of war materials.

As for the alleged fund that reached the MNLF, lawyer Randolph Parcasio, a top aide of MNLF leader Nur Misuari said they did not turn down any assistance from legitimate groups such as the IIRO.

"The MNLF works for the betterment of the people of Mindanao and whatever assistance offered to us, as long as these are from legitimate sources would be most welcome," Parcasio said.

RP's 2nd air defense center opens in Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Philippines' second Air Defense Alert Center (ADAC) opened on Friday in Clark but Philippine Air Force authorities said it was not part of the facilities for the United States-led International Counter-Terrorist Coalition.

"It's for all external unauthorized incursions, hostile or friendly, by foreign forces either on the air or in the sea," Col. Edgar Elona, commander of the PAF's 600th Air Base Wing, told reporters here.

However, he stressed that the center was the "PAF's answer against global terrorism as it can be utilized to intercept a hijacked plane and force it to land or shoot it down before it hits a vital installation."

The center would only have a role in the ICTC if Malacañang so orders. No such order has come yet, Elona said.

Lt. Col. Pete Soledad of the PAF's 630th Service Support Group, warned that unauthorized aircraft would be fired at if these attack civilian communities and vital installations.

Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, PAF commanding general, was the guest of honor in the inauguration.

Elona, in a press briefing on Thursday, said the opening of the ADAC was in the works for 10 years after two similar centers at the Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga, and in the former Clark Air Base were damaged by Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991.

For the center, the PAF had spent at least P800,000 to convert a building at the south ramp of the Clark International Airport.

Like a similar facility in Puerto Princesa City, the ADAC will monitor and parry off hostile or friendly forces within the 100-mile Philippine Air Defense Identification Zone, Elona said.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Name change now easy, but no Osama Bin Ladens, please

COTABATO CITY—Can a Filipino change his name to Osama bin Laden without getting approval from a Regional Trial Court?

Adopting a criminal name would not be possible, according to Commando Pilimpinas, director of the National Statistics Office in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, although an individual can now choose a new name without going through the lengthy court process.

Pilimpinas said Republic Act No. 9048, which simplifies the process of changing names, took effect in April.

Unlike before, correction in entries of a birth certificate "can now be granted by the civil registrar, consul general or a mere clerk of a Shari'ah Court, provided the applicant has complied with the requirements of law," he said.

However, he said that since Bin Laden is associated with terrorism, especially after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, choosing the name has little chance of getting approved.

"There are criteria to be followed before an applicant or a petitioner can adopt a new name or nickname," Pilimpinas said.

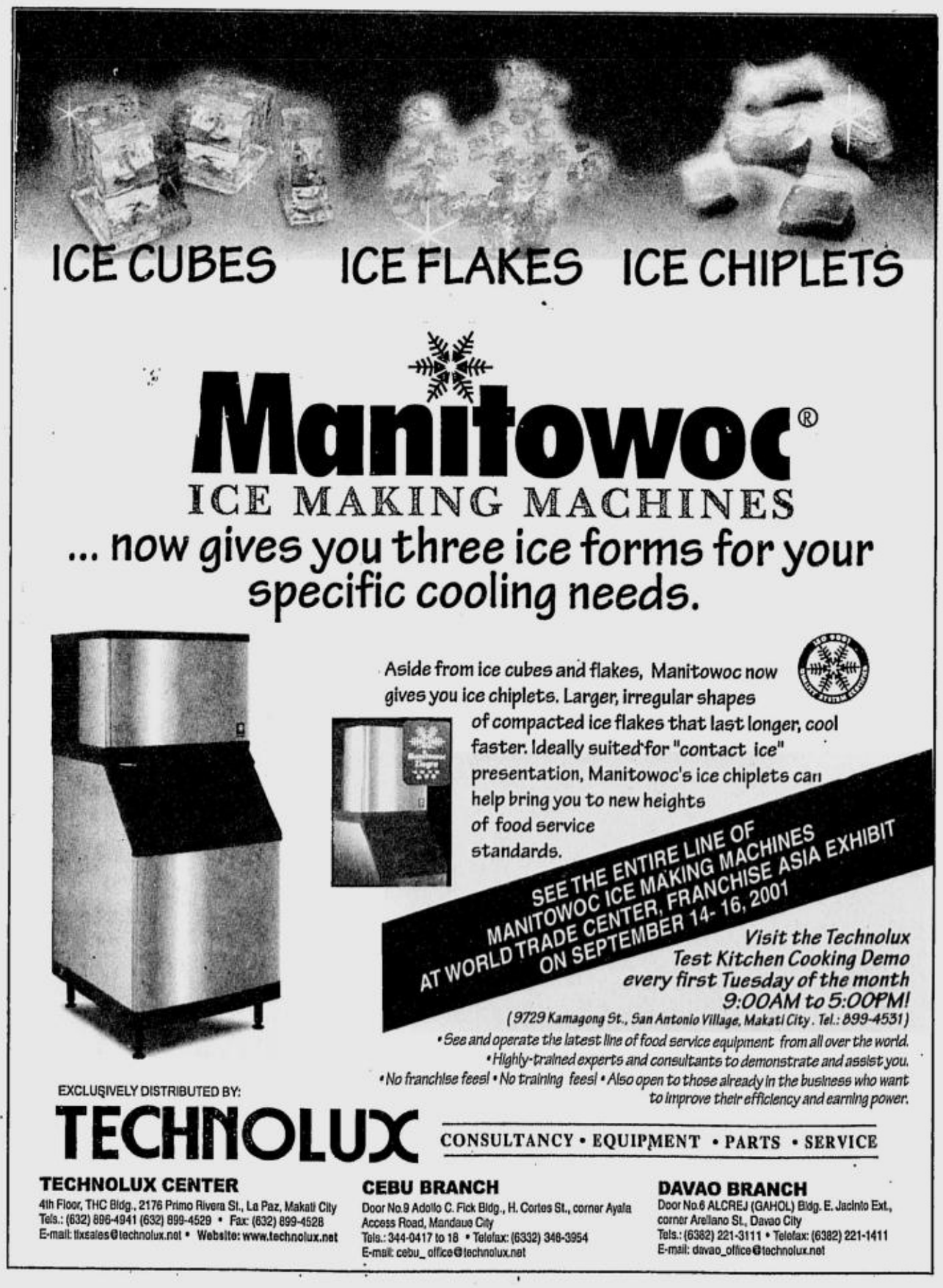
Adopting a name of a criminal or a fugitive from the law is not advisable, he said, because it "might create confusion."

Under the simplified process, a petition for a change of first name or nickname now costs P3,000, plus a fee of P500. Indigents are exempted from payment.

Under the old system, a petitioner must shell out at least P30,000, just to correct entries in his or her birth certificate.

Courts had been swamped with petitions for correction of entries in birth certificates because of the stringent requirements in securing passports and other legal documents.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau



GMA vows to carry on her father's battle

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—A family affair it did not turn out to be.

President Macapagal-Arroyo chose to celebrate the 91st birth anniversary of her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, on Friday by working. This was her way of "carrying out the battle" of her father, she said.

From 10 a.m. to 12 noon here, she presided over projects that, like her father's priority concerns, centered on free enterprise, social services and land reform.

Ms Macapagal turned over 280 six-by-five-square-meter houses to Aetas under the Diosdado Macapagal Aeta Village project. At least 280 more houses will be built next year in 14 Aeta villages at Clark's Sacobia area.

She next inaugurated the Clark Polytechnic, the first educational and training institution run by the government base conversion body, the Clark Development Corp. It will specialize in information and communication technology training.

She also led a ceremony renaming the airport here to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

She said the family was happy that the Clark community chose to preserve the memory of her father by renaming the airport after him.

"We are elated by this precious gift," she said.

She described her father as a peaceful revolutionary and deemed him to be the first president of peasant origin to have risen to the presidency.

In what she called a rare move that typified her father's self-effacing way, she allowed members of the Macapagal family to join her on stage.

Diosdado Jr., her half-brother Arthur, her son Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, who is also Pampanga vice governor, and nephew DonDon Salgado sat next to her.

She vowed she would "carry on his battle."

During the program, she witnessed the signing of several memoranda of agreements.

One was on the Cebu Pacific Air's thrice-weekly Cebu-Clark flights starting Oct. 26. The President expressed appreciation to the Cebu Pacific Air, the second largest airline firm owned by the JG Summit, for investing in Clark.

She also hailed the Trust International Paper Corp. (Tipco) for donating a 2.7-hectare land as a new site for the Mabalacat municipal hall.

She told Clark and local officials to place priority on investors, saying that when faced with various interpretations of laws, the interests of investors must be given priority.

She also received a donation of P15 million worth of books and funds from the Bato Balani, the country's biggest publisher of student science journals.

The recipients of the donation are elementary students in the lahar-ravaged town of Bacolor.

The President witnessed the signing of agreements for the construction of a toll exit in the City of San Fernando, the capital of Pampanga, and the donation of a five-hectare lot for the Missionaries of Faith. Both are being done, without any cost to the government, by the Lakeshore Co.

On the airport, the President said, "We want this to be an international gateway," and ordered department officials to close ranks to reach this goal.

She said the support infrastructures for the airport were being put in place. Among these are the P17-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac toll road, the loan agreement of which she signed with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in Japan earlier this month.

The President was feted to a lunch at the Rolls Royce facility inside the Berthaphil Business Complex in Clark. She also toured the 1,100-sq. m. center, which houses the first aero repair and overhaul facility in East Asia.

Rolls Royce and its partner, the Philippine Aerospace Development Corp. said the center will service commercial and military customers in that region.

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INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

Troops help heal wounds of war

Marines win hearts, minds of Maguindanao villagers in rebuilding their lives

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ
Matanog, Maguindanao

LIFE will never be the same again, many Maguindanaons thought when war broke out last year between government troops and Moro rebels in Matanog, Maguindanao.

True enough, it was never the same again. In fact, life has improved with the help of a very unlikely ally, the Philippine Marines.

Many Maguindanaons are hardly at ease seeing soldiers in their midst.

"Their presence is always accompanied by fear," said Bai Andong Sali, in Filipino. A mother of six, Sali lives inside the former main base of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Sali said the presence of the soldiers used to serve as "magnet" that invited an attack from Moro rebels. "We would always anticipate that (battle) whenever soldiers were stationed near our communities," she added.

"Not anymore this time," said another Iranon from nearby Barira town, who now lives with relatives in Matanog.

He said his relatives are beneficiaries of about a dozen projects initiated by the Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT-8).

When the MILF's Camp Abubakre Assidique fell into government hands more than a year ago, there was total devastation of flora and fauna, infrastructure and government facilities in the area, according to Col. Cesario V. Atienza, MBLT-8 chief.

"Its surrounding towns were no man's land," the young officer said.

Change of image

Although the MBLT-8's main duty was to man checkpoints along a stretch of several kilometers of the Secretary Narciso Ramos Highway in Matanog, the unit found time to help villagers who were returning home after they were given assurance that the soldiers are not enemies but government servants.

"We saw the war victims who needed to rebuild their lives, the children who needed to return to school and get educated, the women who needed the support of their husbands, the community that needed to see the light at the end of the tunnel," Atienza said.

"We took that responsibility and opportunity to show them that there is still hope for a new life, that there's life after the war," he added.

He showed photos of his men working for the Iranons, the dominant tribe in Matanog.

Atienza and his officers and men started gaining the sympathy of villagers when they rebuilt the devastated school buildings and mosques.

They also fenced three places of worship in Barangays Langkong, Proper Langkong and Bayanga Norte.

"We help them rebuild their lives, assuring them of a stable peace and order and offering assistance through muscles and equipment . . . and we succeeded," Atienza said.

Through "*pulong-pulong*" (meetings), the soldiers were able to convince the villagers that the Marines are not enemies but their allies.

To further develop the bonding between the Marines and the people, the MBLT-8 provided entertainment by showing a video program at night. Through the video presentations, the people were educated that the Armed Forces of the Philippines is not the enemy.

Deeds, not words

Believing that the people's hearts cannot be won by words alone but through deeds, the MBLT-8 facilitated the construction of sources of potable drinking water, health buildings and sanitation facilities.

With the help of health workers, several medical missions were conducted, serving 289 poor families. Earlier, military doctors had conducted "Operation Tuli" (circumcision) that benefited 159 boys aged 7-12 years old.

Medical outreach program is being held at least once a month in Matanog's far-flung and underdeveloped villages.

Through solicitation from friends and relatives and from the soldiers themselves, the MBLT-8 has been able to collect 36 sacks of used clothing since January, which they distributed to villagers.

PHOTOS BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ

COL. Cesario V. Atienza, head of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-8, distributes "malong" to the women of Matanog.

The soldiers also donated some 23,000 cc of blood to the needy with the help of the Philippine National Red Cross.

Atienza also initiated the distribution of "*malong*" to mothers through the Church-run Notre Dame Foundation for Charitable Activities-Women in Enterprise Development.

"There's no amount of happiness that is most rewarding than to see other people's joy in all the sacrifices, efforts and heart that we put into it just to see them in tattered clothes no more," Atienza said.

For the young

While doing the rounds of evacuation centers in nearby Parang town in Maguindanao, Atienza said he was struck by the blank stare of children. He felt the urge to take them out of the centers for them to continue their education.

With the help of an education official, Pelot Pagayao, of Matanog, an educational trip was quickly arranged in cooperation with the Cotabato Host Lions Club. Seventy-five children, accompanied by their teachers, were brought on a field trip to Cotabato City.

"This project stirred the children's excitement. For the first time, they were taken out of the miserable sight of war and its destruction," Atienza said.

On board two military trucks, the children were brought to the Notre Dame University for a 'look-see' on how a university operates. They were also visited the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine.

For the first time, the children saw the insides of an airplane; they had been used to see the planes hovering in the sky from the mountains of Matanog.

They were toured a Navy ship and were treated with hamburgers at a local outlet.

"It (the trip) had a strong impact on the children's lives, and their parents may have changed their outlook in life," Atienza said of the children and their parents who have relatives in the MILF.

To instill the spirit of patriotism among the children, Atienza allocated a portion of his battalion's meager budget to put up steel flagpoles to replace the dilapidated wooden poles in eight elementary schools.

Work brigade

Converting half of his military force into "unpaid construction workers," Atienza led the building of comfort rooms, classrooms, school signboards, benches and desks.

Since then, school attendance has tremendously increased. Local government and education officials attributed the situation to the improved peace and order and a friendly environment.

A strong advocate of basic education, the MBLT-8 chief chose 12 among the poorest children and provided them with school bags, clothing, shoes, slippers, socks, umbrellas and notebooks, among other items.

Soldiers became "instant *barbero*" (barbers) and gave haircut to 82 children as part of their preparations for school. Months later, children were coming back for free haircuts.

Through the help of the education department and nongovernment organizations, Atienza spearheaded a Functional Education and Literacy Program for adults, benefiting 501 villagers.

Other projects initiated by the MBLT-8 were the planting of 11,625 *narra* and *gmelina* trees in school grounds and along the roads, construction of two spring development projects, distribution of water containers, and the conduct of a solid waste management seminar.

"Water is life, the residents later learned, and they worked for it," Atienza said. "Now, they are enjoying safe, fresh and potable drinking water . . . future projects would distribute the potable water to their homes."

'There's no amount of happiness that is most rewarding than to see other people's joy in all the sacrifices, efforts and heart that we put into it'

New habits

Villagers now clean their homes and surroundings, a practice that they had not been not used to do.

They also developed a "working today for tomorrow" attitude with the help of the MBLT-8, which taught them how to start livelihood projects, such as *tilapia* breeding.

Atienza said he believed that what his unit has started would serve as a "spark plug" for the villagers to become productive and to feel that the government cares for them.

He expected the Iranons in Matanog to become self-sustaining, protectors of the environment and productive citizens, and to learn the values of education, discipline and hard work.

"He is not our relative and he is not even an elected government official, but what he and his unit are doing to us is a great help that we will always cherish for the rest of our lives," said a local public official, who refused to be named.

Atienza refused to claim credit for what he had done for the Matanog residents. He said he would leave the place with a happy heart, seeing the children grow in an environment of peace and live a better life after last year's war.

Informed about the accomplishments of the MBLT-8, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said: "Well, what do you expect me to say but give credit where credit is due."

"We just hope all other military units are like this one," Kabalu said.

MARINE soldiers give free haircuts to children.

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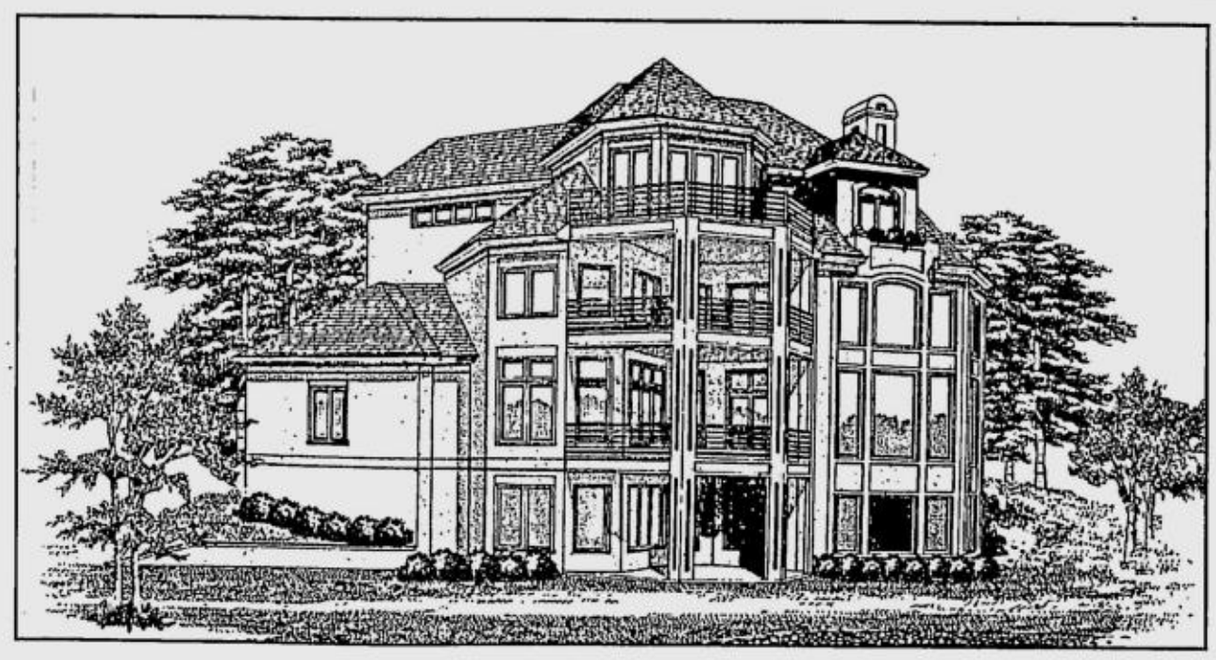

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'Millionaire' living up to its name

(From page A1)

posted an all-time high of 38 percent audience share, besting primetime shows from ABS-CBN and GMA 7.

Alarmed, the two major networks had a major programming reformat to give "Millionaire" some tough competition.

ABS-CBN will premiere a game show on primetime, "Game Ka na Ba?," to be hosted by Kris Aquino.

ABC 5 got the rights to air "Family Feud" in Filipino.

"Millionaire" was first offered as a blocktimer to the two leading networks—ABS-CBN and GMA 7.

"But they probably underestimated it," said the show's executive producer, Veronique Del Rosario. "Now it's major competition for them."

"The first season was so good that we thought it would be great to give a bigger cash prize for the contestants," she added.

After the first season, "Millionaire" increased its cash prize to P2 million. The program also started airing four times a week on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. And starting last Sept.9, also on Sunday.

Even the PBA Games on Tuesdays and Sundays have been edged out by "Millionaire."

According to Del Rosario, the initial Sunday broadcast placed "Millionaire" on the No. 1 slot of Sunday primetime programs.

"The program has surpassed all our expectations because it has been a consistent top-rater even on the weekend slot," Del Rosario disclosed.

Another first

Another first for "Millionaire" is that it is the first franchised TV show in town. Viva-TV secured the rights to the show, which first appeared in London in September 1998. It was the brainchild of producer David Briggs of the British production company, Celador. He wanted to create a quiz show funded by premium phone calls.

A certified global success, "Millionaire" has local editions in nearly 40 countries.

"The license fee to air this kind of show is high, but the returns have been very quick and it really surprised us," Del Rosario said.

Prior to airing, the host, Christopher De Leon, was sent to London to observe how the show was conducted. De Leon is probably now the highest paid game show host, industry insiders speculate.

"Most of the major stars are in the big networks. The choice of Christopher de Leon, a multi-awarded actor, to host a game show turned out to be something novel for the viewers. "Millionaire" has turned out to be a successful alternative program," Del Rosario explained.

De Leon was the personal choice of Viva's big boss, Vic del Rosario, for the program. The short list included Che-Che Lazaro, Eddie Mercado and even veteran actor-director Eddie Garcia.

How game is played

The premium phone service is provided by PLDT (1-908-1-000000), which has forged a tie-up with Viva-TV. Calls are charged P10 per minute.

You are given the first qualifying question and asked to choose from four answers. If you answer correctly, the automated machine will ask you to select the number corresponding to your area of residence and then record your name, complete address and phone number.

Among the qualified callers, 100 semi-finalists will be randomly selected. If you get selected as one of the 100-semi-finalists, a PLDT customer service representative will call you for the final qualifying question.

The 10 semi-finalists with the nearest answers will become the 10 finalists or studio contestants.

A coordinator will also make the travel arrangements for the contestants, which will be paid by the producers of the show.

All contestants with one companion each are required to check in for a free overnight stay with meals at the Traders Hotel on Roxas Boulevard.

"Contestants coming from the provinces are also provided free transportation, whether by air or sea," Del Rosario said.

During the TV contest, all contestants will be requested to answer the "Fastest Finger-First" final qualifier. The first to give the correct reply in the shortest time will take the hot seat opposite De Leon.

The contest begins with the first of 15 questions leading to the P2-million prize.

Lifelines are provided in the form of Ask the Audience, 50/50 and Dial a Friend.

Biggest winner

The biggest winner thus far is Amelita Lopez-Forbes, a university professor who won P1 million last August.

"We have yet to have a P2-million winner," Del Rosario said. "But the money is ready at all times. We have a ready fund for all the cash prizes, although the revenues from the phone calls and the commercial load in the program help us in giving away the cash prizes. We also get the high production cost from the income of the show."

Del Rosario said that after a contestant wins, he could get the check at the Viva office in Quezon City after three weeks.

"Millionaire" is aired from a remote studio in Sucat Road, Parañaque. Viva-TV is renting the studio, where a unique set was especially built for the program.

This month, the studio will have another set for a new game show, "Weakest Link," to be hosted by Edu Manzano.

"It's different and it's also exciting," Del Rosario said. "We hope it can duplicate the success of 'Millionaire.'"

On Nov. 13, "Millionaire" will mark its first anniversary and for its 170th episode, the show asks all those born on that date to call in for a chance to be one of the lucky eight contestants.

Top-rating elements

Del Rosario believes "Millionaire" has become a successful TV fare because it has all the elements of a top-rating program.

"It's like watching a telenovela," she explained. "You never get satisfied with one episode, so you keep on looking forward to the next one and the one after that.

"The show is also interactive. People in their houses or offices try to outwit each other in answering the questions. It's the format which holds the audience to watch the show."

Bush thanks RP for anti-money laundering law

(From page A1)

crimes; hijacking; destructive arson and murder, including those perpetrated by terrorists against non-combatants; securities fraud; and offenses of a similar nature punishable under the penal laws of other countries.

A person convicted of money laundering faces seven to 14 years in prison and a fine of not less than P3 million but not more than twice the value of the dirty money transacted.

Those who facilitate the laundering of dirty money face four to seven years in prison, while those who fail to report it face six months and four years in prison.

RA 9160 also creates a three-member council that will be empowered to look into bank accounts involving suspicious deposits of at least P4 million made within a five-day period and initiate the forfeiture of such assets.

The council will be chaired by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor with the heads of the Insurance Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission as members.

If the council finds strong evidence of money laundering, it can freeze the account for 15 days.

Upon receipt of the freeze order, the account owner has 72 hours to explain why the council should lift the order.

The council then will have 72 hours to take action based on the explanation. Should the council fail to do so, the freeze order is automatically lifted.

Should the council decide to extend the 15-day freeze order, it must seek the court's permission. The account owner, however, may seek from the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court a temporary restraining order or an injunction against the freeze order.

The new law allows the council to assist a foreign government—

PRESENTING the Anti-Money Laundering Act after it was signed by President Macapagal on Saturday with Senate President Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose De Venecia. EDWIN BACASMAS

and likewise seek such assistance abroad—in tracking down, freezing and seizing assets from the proceeds of criminal activities.

Information on back accounts gathered by the council, however, shall be considered confidential and cannot be divulged to the media.

The new law requires banks and other financial institutions to establish and record a client's identity, including the legal existence and organizational structure of a corporate client.

The absence of an anti-money laundering bill has prevented the Philippine government from cracking down on the hidden funds of terrorist groups linked to Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, the No. 1 suspect behind the attacks that killed thousands in the United States on Sept. 11.

Ms Macapagal said the passage of the bill would help in uncovering the bank deposits of the Abu Sayyaf, a Moro bandit group with alleged links to Bin Laden and which amassed millions of dollars in ransom money in a kidnapping spree last year.

Sanctions avoided

The bill was passed just in time to avoid economic sanctions threatened by Western countries, officials said.

"Last August a newspaper said it will be a miracle if Congress can pass such a vital, controversial bill in just a month. Well, Congress has made that miracle happen," Ms Macapagal told the leaders of Congress in Malacañang.

"Again, Congress has demonstrated its exemplary patriotism and unity in passing laws the country require," she added.

Ms Macapagal also praised them for sparing the country's businessmen and overseas workers from the added burden that would have been imposed if they missed the deadline.

Legislators have been racing to beat a Sunday deadline to pass the law or expose Philippine financial transactions to sanctions by members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

An OECD body, the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF), has threatened to punish Manila unless it passes a law against money laundering.

Philippine laws previously imposed tight secrecy on bank deposits, making it almost impossible to uncover money laundering.

Some legislators had strongly resisted weakening the secrecy of bank accounts and had refused to allow authorities to open accounts without a court order.

Assistant House Minority Leader Rolex Suplico, who voted against the bill, said the Philippines was pressured into passing it.

"We were made to work with a loaded gun," he complained.

Other critics said the bill was so watered down that it would not satisfy the FATF.

But Senate President Franklin Drilon said: "The final version will meet all the basic requirements of the task force and eventually remove the Philippines from the blacklist of suspected money-laundering havens."

No harassment

A provision in RA 9160 says the law "shall not be used for political persecution or harassment or as an instrument to hamper competition in trade and commerce."

RA 9160 also provides for the creation of a congressional oversight committee that will draw up the implementing rules and regulations of the new law.

The oversight committee shall be composed of seven senators and seven congressmen.

Because the new law is prospective, Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar said Sen. Panfilo Lacson could not be charged under RA 9160.

Military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus had accused Lacson of maintaining multimillion-dollar accounts in the United States and Hong Kong from the proceeds of criminal activities such as kidnapping for ransom and drug trafficking.

History in Making

(From page A1)

co-respondents, Desierto said.

Among the witnesses is former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, whose "Juetengate" exposé in October last year signaled the beginning of the end of the Estrada presidency.

Singson yesterday told the INQUIRER in a phone interview in Vigan that he was ready to take the witness stand and that he would say the same things he told the Senate impeachment court last year.

"*Walang mababago* (There will be no changes)," said Estrada's former drinking buddy and gambling partner, who had accused him of involvement in jueteng operations and receiving million-peso kickbacks from tobacco excise taxes.

Desierto said he was confident that the trial would begin as scheduled.

He said there was no room for further delay because both the court and the defense had "no choice but to observe the Speedy Trial Act."

Unlike during Estrada's impeachment trial that riveted Filipinos nationwide for weeks before it ground to a halt in January, the Supreme Court has banned live TV coverage of the plunder trial.

Arellano and Ocier

Tomorrow the prosecution will present Carlos Arellano, Estrada's childhood friend and former president and chair of the Social Security System, and Willie Ng Ocier, vice chair of Belle Resources Corp.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño will conduct the direct examination of the witnesses.

"We decided that Arellano and Ocier would be presented first because the public has not heard their testimony yet," Desierto said. "(Banker) Clarissa Ocampo and Chavit Singson will testify later in the trial because they will be saying the same things that they mentioned in the aborted impeachment trial."

According to Desierto, Ocier will testify that he issued a check worth P189.7 million as Estrada's profit-commission for pressuring the SSS and the Government Service Insurance System to invest in Belle Corp.

The SSS and GSIS purchased P1.8 billion worth of Belle shares in 1999 using state pension funds.

Ocier will attest that he issued the check to Jaime Dichaves, who in turn deposited it in the "Jose Velarde" account at the Equitable-PCI Bank, Desierto said.

He said Ocier would reveal that the Belle shares bought by the SSS and GSIS were actually given to Estrada, "who has the option to sell these to others."

Desierto said Arellano would testify that Estrada had pressured him to order the SSS to invest in Belle Corp.

Singson told the INQUIRER that he had been relieved of personal pressure since Estrada's ouster last Jan. 20.

"My plan before was to help topple Erap from the presidency, which was already done, so (the plunder trial) is just a bonus)," the ex-governor said in Ilocano.

He also said he expected more people to come forward and testify against Estrada.

'No sincerity'

Estrada through his lawyers had expressed unwillingness to attend Day One of the trial in protest over the court's supposed failure to resolve some of the motions filed.

His lawyers had also tried to persuade the court to postpone it, to no avail.

"How could the court give in to their demands when they did not show any sincerity at all? Can you imagine lawyers asking to postpone a hearing because they had to pray to their patron saint or attend to their sick mother?" Desierto said, referring to lawyers Jose Flaminiano and Cleofe Verzola.

He said that with the presence of even only one defense lawyer, the court could proceed with any scheduled hearing.

Estrada's lawyers had challenged the plunder law—which he once championed—before the Supreme Court, and asked that the trial be delayed and the status quo be observed until the issue is settled. The tribunal has not responded.

Desierto laughed off possible further attempts by the defense to delay the trial, and said the tribunal would not listen to them.

"They did that before by asking the Supreme Court to stop the arraignment on July 10," he said. "But the motion was mooted when the high court refused to act on it. Now I expect the same from the honorable court."

Desierto said the tribunal would show Filipinos and the rest of the world that justice was prevailing in this country.

"It will not issue any ruling on the (status quo) petition," he said.

"I think the most important lesson here is that no one is above the law," he added. ***With reports from Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; AP***

He lived in Forbes Park, studied in UST

(From page A1)

Tahira Habib, Najib's beautiful, kind and popular mother, passed away in 1992, her life claimed by throat cancer.

By 1995, Najib was an orphan.

His father had gone to the Makati Medical Center for a routine checkup. One evening, after finishing the last segment of the Board exams, Najib went to hospital to keep his father company. When he woke up next morning, his father was dead.

Among weeds

Dr. Habib had given of his time without pay to teach philosophy at UST to postgraduate students, and had contributed liberally to the Muslim community in Maharlika Village.

The imam there knew Dr. Habib and had a grave dug in the cemetery.

TJ's mother had to contact members of the Moro National Liberation Front, who were then still working underground, to help bury poor Habib, who was only wrapped in gauze and had to be laid in the ground the same day, following Islamic tradition.

The Muslim cemetery was a disgrace, as if only third-class citizens were buried there. Among the tall weeds, dog droppings and carabao wallow, Dr. Habib was laid to rest. It was an ignominious burial for a man whose father had once been Afghanistan's Minister of Defense.

With Najib's parents gone, TJ's mother took Najib under her wing, gladly, willingly, and proudly.

Promise

In 1997, in Nuremberg, Germany, Najib began a new family of his own. He married a gorgeous cousin, Aziza, 10 years his junior, fulfilling a promise he had made to his mother. TJ was his best man.

A year later, the newlyweds moved to London, where Najib started his medical postgraduate studies and was an occasional guest of Ambassador Jesus Tambunting.

Until this year, Najib and Aziza have come home to Manila to visit at least once a year. The Forbes Park home long dismantled, they stay at the Peninsula Manila, with the Ayala Center next door to fulfill her love for shopping.

This year, Najib took a summer job as a doctor at the World Bank in Washington. Exactly the wrong place for an Afghan on the loose to be.

E-mail

After the Sept. 11 attacks, he e-mailed his concerned friends in the Philippines.

"Thanks for your concern and support for my countrymen, but I really think that Afghanistan is going to be bombed back into oblivion. Aziza and I are okay here. There is a bit of a backlash against Muslims here, but it's not that bad, as there are so many Arab-looking people in DC.

"Besides, me and Aziza are passing ourselves off as Mexicans, I'm Juan and she's Maria. I'll be back in London in the first week of October, *pero* I'm anticipating problems at the airport.

"I was in New York three weeks ago, and Boston two weeks ago, I visited a Palestinian friend of mine in Chicago, plus I still have an Afghan passport, so there you go, jailbait. I'm not worried though, more stressed at work than anything else. I'll let you know what happens. I never thought I'd say it but I feel safer in Manila. Take care of yourselves. Love to all, Najib."

His friends could tell that the brave front and the sense of humor were meant to keep his Philippine family from worrying.

SILENCING THE CRITICS

PART 2

The truth about the GRP-PIATCO Concession Agreement on the NAIA IPT3

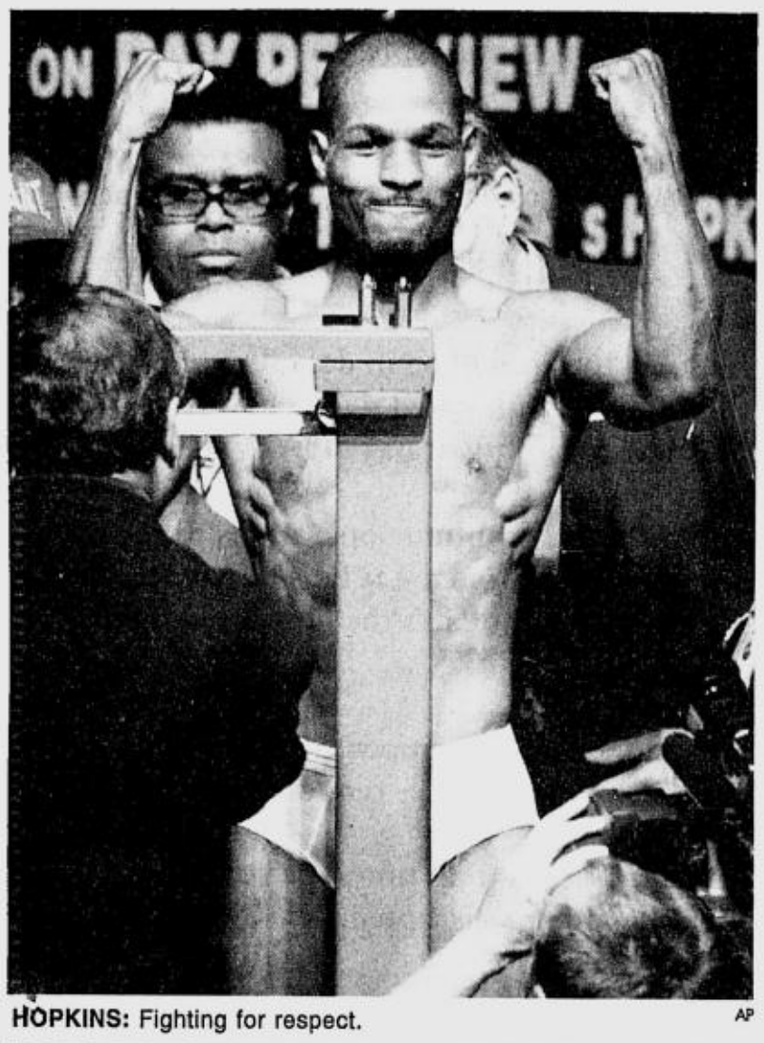
THE LIE	THE TRUTH
• PIATCO is not going to pay liquidated damages if a substitute concessionaire is nominated by lenders and the agreement is novated, though PIATCO is in breach. If the government is in breach, it will pay such damages in all cases.	* There is no unfairness considering the huge investments that PIATCO will put into the project. If government decides to take over, finish and operate the facility, it stands to gain from the takeover. * This takeover is a legal consequence of novation. Nothing is illegal or irregular about this provision.
• Even if PIATCO's contract is terminated, it would still be allowed to continue operating IPT3 until government fully pays liquidated damages, thus, resulting in double compensation.	* There is no disadvantage to the government and no double compensation because: 1) government determines whether it will be in default and consequently becomes liable to PIATCO for liquidated damages; 2) government determines how promptly it pays PIATCO liquidated damages; 3) the agreement allows PIATCO to continue operations to recover liquidated damages due from government in case it fails to pay for it. PIATCO must transfer IPT3 as soon as it offsets the liquidated damages. * There is no double compensation because compensation for the breach is distinct from compensation for services rendered. * The operation of the Terminal, should, at all times, be sustained so the services required by the public are not disrupted.
• PIATCO deducted P76 M from future government earnings for claimed removal of obstruction.	* PIATCO cannot make deductions unless MIAA previosuly approved the figures in its accomplishment reports. * The amended agreement provides that PIATCO could demolish subterranean structures subject to reimbursement for costs by way of deductions. * These were subjected to tedious notification, inspection and proof of structures found, billings accompanied by evidence of work done and due authentication from the MIAA Project Management Office and the COA.
• The agreement establishes monopoly not only in NAIA but in the entire island of Luzon.	* Not true. PIATCO does not intend to monopolize or control terminal operations. * The agreement does not give PIATCO the exclusive right to control terminal operations. PIATCO openly acknowledges the existence of 3 other international passenger terminals in Luzon that can be further expanded. * The agreement covers only international passenger terminal operations and not all passenger terminal operations. The government may continue to operate domestic passenger terminals, including NAIA Terminals 1 and 2.
• The government will get only 5 to 10% of the Terminal Fees that PIATCO will collect.	* Whether it is $10 or $20, which will be determined by MIAA, the agreement pegs government share at 36%, not 5, not 10.
• Government surrenders to PIATCO its regulatory authority over rate fixing and determination of rentals and charges for use of terminal facilities.	* The final lie. Section 5 of the BOT Law authorizes government to grant the project proponent the franchise to operate and maintain the facility, including the collection of tolls, fees, rentals and charges. * By no means, therefore, can PIATCO's operation of IPT3 constitute the unlawful usurpation of MIAA's prerogatives under its Charter. * There are two kinds of fees. Public utility fees are fully subject to government regulation. The determination of non-public utility fees are the prerogative of PIATCO. In any case, government may require PIATCO to justify the rate.

Trinidad-Hopkins 'hell of a fight' today

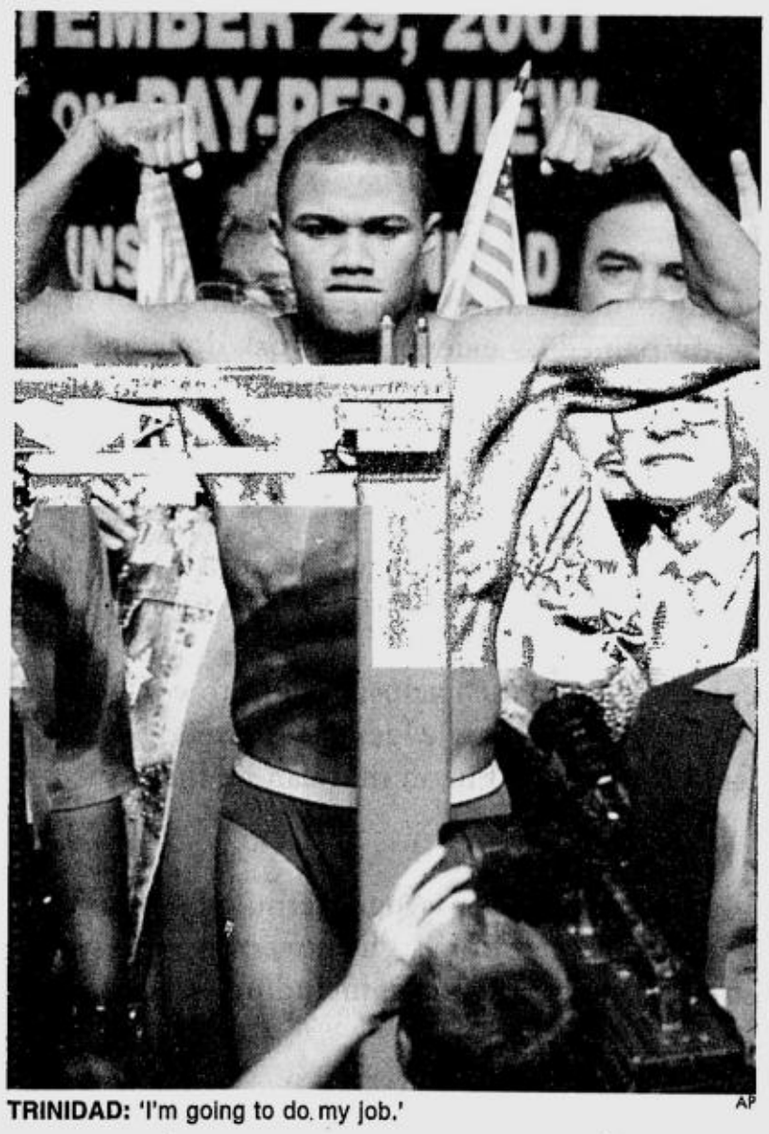
TALE OF THE TAPE

TRINIDAD		HOPKINS
5'11"	Height	6'1"
72"	Reach	76"
15 3/4"	Neck	15"
39 1/2"	Chest	40"
42"	Expanded	42"
31"	Waist	31"
13 1/4"	Bicep	14"
11 1/2"	Forearm	12"
6 1/2"	Wrist	6 3/4"
12"	Fist	12"
21 1/2"	Thigh	19"
14 3/4"	Calf	13 3/4"
9"	Ankle	9 1/4"

THE FIGHT coverage by RPN 9 will start at 9:30 a.m., according to RPN point man Philip Tan. To precede the Hopkins-Trinidad fight will be the bout between IBF light-flyweight champion Ricardo Lopez (49-0-1, with 36 knockouts) of Mexico and Zolani Petelo (17-2-2, 9 KOs) of South Africa.



HOPKINS: Fighting for respect. AP



TRINIDAD: 'I'm going to do my job.' AP

NEW YORK —Felix Trinidad and Bernard Hopkins will fight Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila) at the Madison Square Garden, with the winner becoming the first undisputed middleweight champion since Marvelous Marvin Hagler in 1986.

The unbeaten Trinidad will defend the WBA 160-pound (72.575-kilogram) championship and try to win the WBC-IBF titles held by Hopkins in the 12-round match postponed from Sept. 15 because of the terrorist attacks.

A crowd of about 18,000 is expected to watch what Hopkins said will be "a hell of a fight while it lasts."

The 28-year-old Trinidad, a former welterweight and super welterweight champion from Puerto Rico, is looking to cement his claim as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world and set up a match against light heavyweight champion Roy Jones Jr.

The 36-year-old Hopkins, of Philadelphia, will be seeking the attention he feels he has been denied despite having been a middleweight champion since 1995.

While he said he is fighting for respect, Hopkins raised hackles in prefight hype by twice disrespecting Puerto Ricans by throwing down their flag at news conferences.

"I don't feel any anger," Trinidad said. "I'm going to do my job. He's a good fighter, but he's been lucky up to now."

Hopkins, at 1.86 meters (6-foot-1), will be the biggest opponent Trinidad will face. He is a natural middleweight, while the 1.81-meter (5-11) Trinidad, will be fighting at 160 pounds (72.575 kilograms) for the only the second time.

Trinidad has 33 knockouts in 40 fights, but Hopkins believes he can withstand the Puerto Rican's power. William Joppy also thought he could take Trinidad's punches. He couldn't and lost the WBA middleweight title when he was stopped in the fifth round May 12 in the Garden.

Hopkins, 39-2-1-1 (win-loss-draw-no contest) with 28 knockouts, also wonders if the Puerto Rican can withstand his power.

Trinidad has been knocked down eight times within the first four rounds of fights.

Hopkins' strategy, however, appears to be to turn the match into a brawl and wear Trinidad down.

"People try to hit him on the chin. He's got a body and arms. Everybody wants to hit him in one place," said Hopkins, who defended the IBF title and won the WBC championship by outpointing Keith Holmes on April 14 in The Theater and the Garden.

"I think I will knock him out," said Trinidad, favored to win the pay-per-view bout on TVKO.

The last undisputed middleweight title fight in the Garden was Oct. 19, 1984, when Hagler knocked out Mustafa Hamsho. Hagler's last undisputed title defense was an 11th-round knockout of John Mugabi on March 10, 1986 in Las Vegas. Only the WBC title was at stake when Hagler was outpointed by Sugar Ray Leonard on April 6, 1987.

The pay-per-view telecast will begin at 0100 GMT. It also will open with a 10-round bantamweight bout between Danny Romero, a former champion from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Ratanachai Vorapin of Thailand. It also will include an IBF light flyweight title defense by Ricardo Lopez of Mexico again Zolani Petelo of South Africa.

Also on tap are the WBA super middleweight title defense by Byron Mitchell of Ozark, Alabama, against Manuel Siaco of Puerto Rico, and an IBF welterweight title elimination bout between Rafael Pineda of Colombia and Michele Piccirillo of Italy. *AP*

Hopkins has to win it by KO

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BERNARD Hopkins and Felix "Tito" Trinidad are exact opposites. Hopkins is rage. Trinidad is grace.

Hopkins' rage has given him 39 wins, 28 by knockout.

Trinidad's grace has given him 40 wins, 33 by knockout.

In a battle of rage versus grace, it is grace that usually wins.

Muhammad Ali proved that against Joe Frazier in that now-classic Thrilla in Manila on Oct. 1, 1975. Ali the dancer won by TKO over Frazier the brawler in 14 rounds.

Sugar Ray Leonard proved it again when he outpointed Marvin "Marvelous" Hagler in 1987 in the last truly magnificent clash between two of the greatest middleweights of our time. In his prime, Leonard was the epitome of grace.

Oscar De La Hoya is not exactly a slugger. His style is basically graceful, if not methodical or even clinical. That's why his defeat in the hands of Trinidad by unanimous decision on Sept. 18, 1999, was received with reservations by many of boxing's acknowledged experts. Others called the judges' decision questionable.

And there's this lingering question about Trinidad: He hasn't beaten a great fighter in his prime. Pernell Whitaker was over-the-hill. David Reid and Fernando Vargas seem to have been overrated.

But if Hopkins lacks grace, his style is not totally bereft of the "sweet science." He could be today's version of Raging Bull in the mold of Jake LaMotta but notice the fact that he lost on points to Roy Jones Jr. when Jones was still a middleweight. Anybody surviving Jones must really be good, and must really know how to dance, too. All Jones needs to send his opponent to dreamland is a small opening.

Or is Hopkins' jaw made of granite?

For I'm sure that in those 12 grueling rounds against Jones, Jones must have hit Hopkins with some of his best shots in that fight.

Which brings me now to my thesis: Hopkins is my pick as I feel he can take Trinidad's best shots today. This is a deviation as I had picked Ali over Frazier, Leonard over Hagler and De La Hoya over Trinidad. I have always put premium on grace over rage. My choice of Hopkins is a big risk since I stand to lose a vintage Port wine I bought in Australia during last year's Sydney Olympics.

For six years as a champion in the 160-pound division since 1995, Hopkins has been yearning for the recognition he so truly deserves. This should be it. He cannot afford to bungle this. A decisive loss may yet spell the end of his career as time is not on his side; he is 36 years old.

Hopkins' only chance is to knock out Trinidad. And that's achievable. Trinidad has been knocked down 8 times, the last time was on March 3, 2000, when Reid knocked down Trinidad in the third. Amazingly, however, Trinidad rose from all those 8 knockdowns to stop his opponents—all 6 of them.

Hopkins, whose 4-round debut in 1988 ended in a points decision loss to an overmatched foe before collecting 22 straight wins from 1990 to 1993, has scored first-round knockouts 13 times. I believe that if Hopkins gets to tag him with a knockout punch, Trinidad won't be able to survive it.

Trinidad, 28, has winged feet. Hopkins' chance for a kayo is to cut angles, limit Trinidad's mobility with crowding tactics.

Three of five former middleweight champions—Emile Griffith, Thomas Hearns and Jake LaMotta—picked Trinidad to win. Gene Fullmer, the 1957 and 1959 world middleweight champion, declined to predict. But Joey Giardello, the 1963-1965 world middleweight king, picked Hopkins.

"Hopkins being a Philadelphia fighter gives him a little edge," said Giardello, who beat Dick Tiger for the crown in 1963. "There's nothing like them."

Hopkins, who spent five years in a maximum security prison in Philadelphia from age 17 for aggravated assault, won four national middleweight penitentiary boxing championships. He was released in 1989 with nine years of parole.

"Boxing saved my sanity in prison," he said. "Boxing was my best therapy."

He raged against the establishment because upon his release, "I was not allowed to vote and yet, I was allowed to pay taxes."

Trinidad being the odds-on favorite does not worry him. Hopkins is the underdog but what an underdog the guy is: He is a resident of the middleweight division, unlike Trinidad who will only be in his second fight as a full-fledged middleweight.

"I can hear what people are saying," said Hopkins. "But I was born black in America on January 15, 1965. I was an underdog the day I was born."

Kids triathlon

MORE than 100 kiddie triathletes joined yesterday's 3rd leg of the Fit & Tri Youth Triathlon series at the Rizal Racquet Club swimming pool area at the Rizal Provincial Capitol grounds in Kapitolyo, Pasig.

Race director Rudy Ledesma cited the support given by Rizal Gov. Nini Ynares and corporate sponsors Smart Money, Vaseline, and Lifebuoy for the TRAP-backed triathlon grassroots program for young kids to teenagers, 7 to 18 years old.

Age groupings in both the triathlon and the side aquathlon events are 7 to 10 years old, 11 to 14 years old, and 15 to 18 years old.

Chess finals on

THE PENULTIMATE regional elimination tournament in the Shell National Youth Active chess Championship 2001 holds it finals today at the Bulwagan Batangan of the Batangas Capitol Building in Batangas City.

The seven-round Swiss system tournament for Filipino students in the 20-under and 14-below age brackets is co-sponsored by PLDT, College Assurance Plan, Negros Navigation, Solid Shipping Lines, Shell Citibank-Mastercard and the Batangas Provincial Government led by Gov. Hermilando I. Mandanas.

Up for grabs for the top players are a total cash purse of P25,500, medals and outright berths in the November national finals that will pit champions from the country's key regions.

6th RP Golf Show gets going Oct. 5 at Megamall

FORMER president Fidel Valdez Ramos, MMDA chair Ben Abalos, Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos and Southeast Asian Games champion Juvic Pagunsan are among the main guests during the opening of the sixth Philippine International Golf Show on Friday, Oct. 5 at the Megatrade Hall 2 of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong.

The opening ceremonials kick off at 10 a.m. with Ramos to be honored by the GDAP for his role in keeping local interest on the sport. He will also lead the cutting of ceremonial ribbon.

Pagunsan emerged the star of the RP golf team in Kuala Lumpur when he won the individual gold medal in runaway fashion.

"The GDAP certainly recognizes the tremendous contribution of President Ramos to the promotion of golf not just when he was the head of the country but up to now that he's called Citizen Eddie," said GDAP president Raymund Atendido.

The show has drawn the support of Jack Nicklaus apparel, Hawaiian Tropic, Planet Sports, Srixon, Casino Filipino, Berocca, Milo, Enervon Prime, Lipton Ice Tea, Citylite 88.3, Racks, Taytan International, Earthinshape.com. and Pharmaton as sponsors.

Celebrity appearances are expected to spice up the show once more as newcomer The Golf Authority of Bong Lopez has slated visits by famous students like Cassius Casas, Gerald Rosales, Angelo Que, Aga Muhlach, Richard Gomez, Ian Veneracion, among others.

Pinoys tied for 5th

DANNY Zarate and Rodrigo Cuello pressed their bid for a shot at Tiger Woods and his World Cup partner with another fighting round of six-under-par 66 yesterday to stay inside the qualifying circle, keeping the Philippines in a tie for fifth place going into the final round of the Davidoff Asian Nations Cup at the Royal Selangor Golf Club in Malaysia.

When Zarate and Cuello's third round effort seemed solid enough, host Malaysia (21 under), Norway (-20), China (-18) and Holland (-17) also came through with their own big moves to occupy the first four positions.

Ceelin swimfest slated

THE CEELIN 2001 Swimming Festival blasts off Oct. 6 at the International School in Bel Air, Makati.

Open to kids 12 years and under, the age group swimfest also features several relay events designed for the young participants.

"This kind of age group swimming program is what we need to attract kids to the sport of swimming," said event organizer Ral Rosario, a former Asian Games gold medal winner and presently secretary general of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (Pasa).

Three fun events have been scheduled. They are the Diving for Treasure, a team event where the swimmers try to collect as many Ceelin balls they can in the pool; the Ceelin kayak race, a relay boat race across the pool using individual kayaks, and the Lifesavers' Run, a simulated rescue event for pairs.

The winners will all get Ceelin gift packs.

For the competitive events, there will be four age groups (11 to 12 years old, 9 to 10 years old, and those 6 and under).

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BOXING: World Middleweight Title - Felix Trinidad vs Bernard Hopkins at 9 a.m. on RPN 9

MOTOR SPORTS: 2001 FIA World Rally Championships Highlights at 8 a.m. on Star Sports

2001 F1 Qualifying - American Grand Prix Qualifying at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

SBK Superbike Magazine Highlights at 12:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Texas Open, Third Round at 1 p.m. (r – 10 p.m.) on Star Sports

Golfglobe 2001 at 5:30 p.m. Star Sports

Asian PGA/ Davidoff Tour - Tour Special at 6:30 p.m. on Star Sports

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	91	61	.599	
Boston	76	76	.500	15
Toronto	74	79	.484	1 7 1/2
Baltimore	61	92	.399	3 0 1/2
Tampa Bay	56	97	.366	3 5 1/2
Central				
Cleveland	87	66	.569	
Minnesota	81	73	.526	6 1/2
Chicago	80	74	.520	7 1/2
Detroit	63	91	.409	2 4 1/2
Kansas City	61	93	.396	2 6 1/2
West				
x-Seattle	110	44	.714	
y-Oakland	95	59	.617	15
Anaheim	74	80	.481	36
Texas	71	83	.461	39

x-clinched division
y-clinched wild card spot

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	83	71	.539	
Philadelphia	81	73	.526	2
New York	79	75	.513	4
Florida	72	82	.468	11
Montreal	65	89	.422	18
Central				
Houston	91	63	.591	
St. Louis	88	66	.571	3
Chicago	83	71	.539	8
Milwaukee	65	89	.422	26
Cincinnati	63	91	.409	28
Pittsburgh	58	96	.377	33
West				
Arizona	87	67	.565	
San Francisco	85	69	.552	2
Los Angeles	81	73	.526	6
San Diego	76	78	.493	11
Colorado	69	85	.448	18

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit 4, Boston 1; Minnesota 1, Cleveland 0; N.Y. Yankees 7, Baltimore 0; Tampa Bay 6, Toronto 1; Kansas City 3, Chicago White Sox 2; Texas 11, Anaheim 2; Seattle 5, Oakland 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago Cubs 6, Houston 2; Montreal 7, Cincinnati 6; Florida 6, Philadelphia 5, 10 innings; Atlanta 5, N.Y. Mets 3; St. Louis 14, Pittsburgh 3; Colorado 6, Milwaukee 5; Arizona 4, Los Angeles 3, 11 innings; San Francisco 10, San Diego 5. AP

Bonds hits 68th homer, closes in on Mac

SAN FRANCISCO —Barry Bonds hit his 68th homer, moving within two of Mark McGwire's record with eight games remaining as the San Francisco Giants beat the San Diego Padres 10-5.

Bonds' 438-foot (131-meter) solo shot Friday night in the second inning came off rookie Jason Middlebrook (1-1), who has yielded three homers to Bonds in six days. Bonds was 2-for-3 with three RBIs and was walked twice by Middlebrook, bringing his season total to 164 and breaking McGwire's previous NL record of 162.

San Francisco (85-69) remained three games behind St. Louis (88-66) in the wild card race and two games behind NL West-leading Arizona.

Shawn Estes (9-8) allowed two runs and seven hits in seven innings, striking out eight in his first victory since July 29.

Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 3

In Phoenix, Mark Grace hit a tying single in the eighth inning and Luis Gonzalez hit his 54th home run in the 11th, a drive off Mike Trombley (0-4).

Los Angeles dropped six games behind the Diamondbacks.

Mike Morgan (1-0) struck out the two batters he faced in the 11th. Curt Schilling, the winningest pitcher in the majors at 21-6, allowed three tuns and seven hits in eight innings.

In Atlanta, Andruw Jones and Javy Lopez each hit two-run homers to help Atlanta take a two-game lead over second-place Philadelphia and a four-game lead over New York.

Tom Glavine (15-7) allowed two runs in six innings and Julio Franco added a solo homer off Steve Trachsel (10-13) for the Braves, who are seeking their 10th straight division title. *AP*

BONDS raises his arms in jubilation after hitting his 68th homer. AP

Super bike tourney: Castrol riders favored

CASTROL-ACCESS Plus riders, led by 1999 Rider of the Year awardee Toti Alberto, will be among the entries to watch in the National Super Bike Series 2001 which resumes today at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Alberto, who emerged as the overall champion with a dramatic, come-from-behind victory over Jolet Jao in 1999, will resume his campaign in the centerpiece expert open category in this prestigious 12-part series sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

Riding a Ducati 748R, Alberto is running second overall in the expert category with 73 points based on the 25-20—16-13-11 scoring system.

"We'll do our best there this weekend. As they say, it's not really over until the final race," said Alberto, who finished a strong second to Jao in the previous round on Aug. 19.

Alberto's Ducati Manila teammates, Jose Reyes IV and Lindsay Thomas Ryan, hope to keep their 1-2 positions with another strong showing in the novice category.

Schumacher unsure

INDIANAPOLIS—Michael Schumacher is a four-time Formula One champion and one of the most fearless racers in the world.

But even Schumacher has worries.

With the points title already clinched and America reeling from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Schumacher wasn't sure if traveling from his home in Switzerland to Indianapolis for the United States Grand Prix was the right thing to do.

Schumacher's family changed his mind.

Zanardi doing well

BERLIN—Two-time CART champion Alex Zanardi is in "good spirits" and "doing very well," although he remains in intensive care after losing both legs in a crash, his doctor said Friday.

"It is difficult to say when he will leave the intensive care unit," Dr. Walter Schaffartzik said. *AP*

SundaySPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▩ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Realtors clash with Aces

BY JUNE NAVARRO

Games Today (Ynares Center)
4:05 p.m.—Ginebra vs San Miguel Beer
6:10 p.m.—Alaska vs Sta. Lucia

Governors Cup Standings

	W	L
Sta. Lucia	4	0
Talk N Text	4	1
Pop Cola	3	2
San Miguel	2	2
Shell	2	2
Red Bull	2	2
Purefoods	2	3
Tanduay	1	4
Alaska	0	4

ENDS meet as pacesetter Sta. Lucia Realty tackles cellar-dweller Alaska today in the PBA Governors Cup at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

In high spirits and enjoying their finest start in years, the unbeaten Realtors attempt to nail down their fifth consecutive win against the Aces at 6:10 p.m.

"We have to compile as many victories as we can to at least earn a twice-to-beat incentive going into the semifinals," said Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black.

Driven by their hunger to capture a conference title since joining the league in 1993, the Realtors did just that, toppling opponents one after the other to share the lead with Talk N Text.

The latest victims of the Realtors' aggressiveness were the Shell Turbo Chargers, who yielded a 109-96 decision a week ago.

Sister teams Barangay Ginebra and San Miguel Beer, both at 2-2, part ways in the curtain-raiser.

The Beermen crushed the Kings, 97-82, during their first encounter almost three weeks back.

But while the Realtors are relishing the view from the top, the Aces are off to their worst start at 0-4.

At that, Alaska coach Tim Cone yearns for the Aces of old, the squad that brought him several championship jewels in the '90s.

"In comparison with the old team, we could not have folded like that," said Cone.

PBA out of town

IN A PBA out-of-town game in Dumaguete City, Red Bull dealt Talk N Text its first defeat with a 99-85 win to improve its mark to 2-2. The Phone Pals dropped to 4-1.

Let's give peace a chance–GTK

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

GO Teng Kok, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, yesterday called for peace and unity in sports even as he appealed to the masterminds of tomorrow's planned protest rally against the Philippine Sports Commission not to push through.

"Let's give peace a chance," Go said.

The plea came after reports of the rally came out over the weekend supposedly to be participated in by athletes and officials and being hatched—ironically—by Go himself in an attempt to oust PSC chair Butch Tuason.

"They really love to portray me as the villain," Go told the INQUIRER. "No matter what good I do for sports, some people look at me that way."

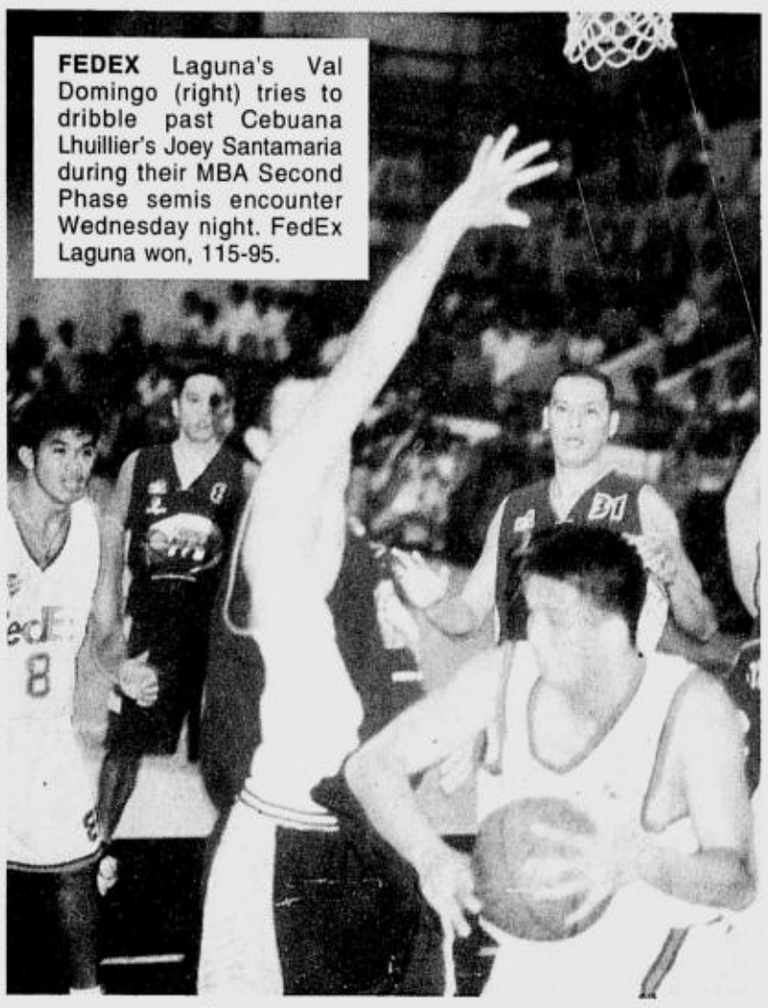
In fact, Tuason met with Go Friday night where the athletics chief denied any involvement with the disgruntled group, which also circulated six pages of unsigned commentary against Tuason's administration.

"What reason would I possibly have to try to oust Tuason," said Go. "He was giving Patafa enough support."

Go said he has his hands full running things in Patafa, which was the country's best performing national sports association during the recent Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games with eight gold, 11 silvers and four bronzes.

"I will have to deal with my problems at Patafa first before I would try to bring down somebody," said Go.

He also asked his fellow NSA officials to sit down with their athletes to know their sentiments. "This way, you can be their spokesman when you talk to the PSC."



FEDEX Laguna's Val Domingo (right) tries to dribble past Cebuana Lhuillier's Joey Santamaria during their MBA Second Phase semis encounter Wednesday night. FedEx Laguna won, 115-95.

Slashers target 4th win vs Gems

Second Phase Standings

Northern Conference	W	L
LBC Batangas	5	0
Andok's San Juan	2	1
FedEx Laguna	2	2
Nueva Ecija	2	3
Southern Conference		
Negros	3	0
TPG Davao	0	1
Cebuana Lhuillier	0	2
Socsargen	0	5

Games Today
San Luis Sports Complex (Sta. Cruz, Laguna)
3:00 p.m.—Davao vs Laguna
USLS Bacolod
5:30 p.m.—Cebuana vs Negros

THE NEGROS Slashers will be on familiar territory when they clash with the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems at 5:30 p.m. today in the MBA Second Phase at the University of St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City.

Hard to beat at home and enjoying a three-game winning streak, the Slashers have been installed the favorites over the Gems, their chief rival in the Southern Conference.

John Ferriols, Johnedel Cardel, Cid White, Jomar Tierra and Ruben dela Rosa will be the key men for Negros, which is bidding to improve on its runner-up finish behind Andok's San Juan in the First Phase.

FedEx Laguna clashes with TPG Davao in the 3 p.m. opener at the San Luis Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

The Lakers showed devastating form in a 115-95 of the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems Wednesday night to level their slate at 2-2.

That performance made the Lakers the favorites over the TPG Davao Eagles, who bowed to the Andok's San Juan Knights, 108-81, in their debut last Friday at the Araullo Gym in Cabanatuan City. The other game saw LBC Batangas repeat over Nueva Ecija, 106-96, and tally its fifth straight victory.

Fil-Ams Chris Clay and Jeffrey Flowers will again spearhead the Lakers with support coming from Biboy Simon, Richie Melencio and Michael Manigo, who finally had his breakout game as a Lakers. *Roy Luarca*

JRU forces decider against SSC Tuesday

Games Tuesday
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
1:30p.m.—Letran vs San Beda (jrs)
3:30p.m.—San Sebastian vs JRU (srs)

BY JUNE NAVARRO

JOSE Rizal University crippled San Sebastian College with a feverish third-quarter foray to prevail, 95-81, and force a decider yesterday in the finals of the 77th NCAA men's basketball season at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

MVP Ernani Epondulan resurrected from his pathetic Game 1 performance, topscoring with 26 points as he led the Heavy Bombers' breakaway in the final half.

And unlike the series opener on Thursday where they crumbled in the homestretch, the Heavy Bombers held on this time, posting spacious margins to keep the dangerous Stags at bay.

From a precarious 56-47 advantage, the Heavy Bombers cut loose, putting up a stingy defense that maimed the Stags' offensive machinery.

Joel Finuliar, Rendel Dela Rea, Ariel Capus then conspired with Epondulan at the offensive end as the Heavy Bombers registered an almost insurmountable spread, 68-54, in the final 6.57 minutes.

From thereon, the smoke of the battle cleared and the tight contest was reduced to a mere foul-shooting spree.

"I told my teammates, especially the new ones, that I cannot carry the team alone. Good thing they responded and we were able to escape with this one," said Epondulan, who toppled San Beda's Arjun Cordero in the MVP race.

With the victory, the Heavy Bombers forced a rubbermatch on Tuesday.

Signs of a JRU break-up actually cropped up in the first quarter as the Stags completely controlled the affair.

It was then that Epondulan and the Heavy Bombers wrecking crew made various stops that were translated into a splendid offensive assault.

In the juniors championship series, the San Beda Red Cubs also forced a do-or-die with an 80-70 beating of the Letran Squires.

The scores:

First game (Jrs.)

San Beda 80—Tabigue 19, Casio 18, Escueta 15, Arao 13, Violago 7, Braganza 2, Agbayani 2, Ortega 2, Reyes 2, Baldos 0.

LETRAN 70—Balneg 17, Reyes 16, Ronquillo 11, Jazul 8, Intal 7, Cua 5, De la Rama 4, Dacanay 2, Samson 0, Quiamco 0, Angustia 0.

Quarters: 15-17; 31-31; 52-53; 80-70

Srs:

JRU 95—Epondulan 26, Finullar 14, Villarin 11, Gregorio 8, Lazaro 8, Fajardo 7, Dela Rea 6, Capus 5, Valena 5, Jorge 1.

SSC 81—Macapagal 14, Alfad 14, Najorda 12, Reguerra 11, Mercado 8, Coronel 7, Moore 6, Uy 4, Gonzales 2, Falcasantos 1.

Quarters: 19-21, 47-35, 56-47, 95-81

Hapee gains semis

Games today
10:45 a.m.—Shark vs Wang's Ball Club
1 p.m.—Chopat vs Welcoat Paints
3 p.m.—La Union Selection vs Grantex
5 p.m.—Silka vs Sureshot

HAPEE Toothpaste got the needed lift from Cyrus Baguio to outlast Blu Detergent, 75-72, yesterday and assure itself of an automatic semifinals slot in the 1st PBL Open Invitational at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

Baguio topped with 18 points, six rebounds and two assists, including a crucial jumper in the final 21.1 seconds that sealed the final tally and the Teeth Sparklers' fourth win in a row.

Shark Energy Drink easily disposed of the undermanned Ana Freezers, 92-75, to move a win away from clinching an automatic semifinals slot.

The Energy Kings only needed to beat Wang's Ball Club today to join Hapee into the semifinals.

Lady Maroons in finals

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Lady Maroons stopped the Adamson University Lady Falcons, 62-53, yesterday to advance to the UAAP women's basketball finals at the Ateneo gym.

Camille Dowling led the Lady Maroons with 22 points and 14 rebounds in 39 minutes of action as the State University earned the right to challenge defending champion De La Salle University in the best-of-three finals starting Wednesday.

Marison Mendoza and Esperanza Aguinaldo backed up Dowling with 13 and 11 markers, respectively.

Schumacher car on display

THE FERRARI Formula I car used last year by world champion Michael Schumacher is on display, courtesy of Pilipinas Shell Corp., at the New Custom Car & Sport Truck Show 2001 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B in Mandaluyong City.

The show, organized by Tradeshow International Inc., will end today.

More than 50 customized cars and sports trucks are on display and vying for the top plum.

Future home of Santa Ana

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

THERE were already some dissentions in the runup to the Open Championship, this afternoon's main race at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Questions ranging from handicap weights to Silver Story's eventual pullout have made the race quite intriguing enough for *kareristas* not to miss it.

One of the controversies which up to now remains the talk of *bayang kareristas* is the respecftive loads assigned on Wind Blown and Sun City.

The rules have been set. Wind Blown is carrying the top weight of 58 kilos, while Sun City is assigned only 55.5 kilos in the race to be disputed over 1,900 meters.

My keen-eyed Silip Boy said that if he were Wind Blown's owner, he'll cry "foul."

"They're not only punishing the horse itself but also the owner by assigning that heavy load on the horse. *Malaking bagay ang* additional 2.5 kilos *na dadalhin ni* Wind Blown," said my Silip Boy.

"Imagine, Wind Blown is a local compared to Sun City who is an import," he noticed. "The long distance might take its toll on Wind Blown in the latter part of the race which may be crucial to his chances."

"I know how Hermie Esguerra must be feeling right but *siguro talagang* sportsman *siya kaya pinayagan na rin nyang itakbo si* Wind Blown. *Kung baga* for the spirit of sportsmanship," added my Silip Boy.

Prior to today's running of the Open race, rumors flew that Wind Blown would also be scratched because the Esguerra camp frowned on the galloper's assigned weight.

"To give fairness to everybody, I'd assign Wind Blown 58 kilos and Sun City 57 kilos. I think *tama lang yan at siguro* happy *ang lahat dyan*," said my Silip Boy.

In the meantime, one blockbuster race awaits us all *kareristas* so let's see who'll bag the P1-million pot.

Good luck to Hermie Esguerra, Jun Almeda and the rest of the owners whose horses are joining the Open Championship fray!

* * *

It's good to hear that the construction of the future site of the Santa Ana Park—the ultra-modern Saddle & Clubs Leisure Park in the tri-boundary area of Naic, Tanza and Trece Martirez, Cavite—is now in full swing.

At the forefront of the undertaking is real estate giant Sta. Lucia Realty Dev't. Corp. which recently announced that the racetrack itself is 98 percent complete.

The construction of Saddle & Clubs is surely a welcome news to horseowners and breeders who are expected to make it the future base of their gallopers.

We heard that the stables there can accommodate more than 1,000 horses.

Also, a press room which does not exist in both the Manila Jockey Club and Philippine Racing Club is also among the priorities of the Sta. Lucia people.

Royal Homes Mktg. Corp. handles the marketing network of Saddle & Clubs and it can be reached at 726-4288 and 723-4014.

SLRDC will officially introduce Saddle & Clubs Leisure Park during a five-day racing festival at Santa Ana on Oct. 3-7.

A total of 20 invitational races highlighted by the Grand Futurity Stakes are on tap.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. River Bee 2. The Jackal 3. Rosinante 4. Juan Marco
Race 2—1. Golden Tate 2. Jerold's Dream 3. Front Page 4. Red Fury
Race 3—1. Stock Rising/Ocean Friend 2. Sunny View/Queen Scholar 3. Enseguida 4. Hercules
Race 4—1. Vice on Ice 2. Global Power 3. Silver Print 4. Shuttle's Magic
Race 5—1. Air Love 2. Hearts on Fire 3. Alert One 4. Vantage Point 5. Never My Love 6. Ocean Menary
Race 6—1. Mighty Strong 2. Bidang Bida 3. Schwarzenegger
Race 7—1. Eyewitness 2. Run Doding Fly 3. Centennial 4. Prop A Ganda
Race 8—1. Wind Blown 2. Sky Hawk 3. High Roller 4. Sun City 5. Materiales Fuertes
Race 9—1. Ladies Night 2. Sand Splash 3. Royal Diamond 4. Native Talent 5. Machine Gun Kelly
Race 10—1. Spoiler 2. Living Legend 3. Princess Malinda
Race 11—1. Inner Wheeler 2. Ann's Magic 3. Signal Mountain 4. Sitsiritsit
Race 12—1. Walang Hanggan 2. Mama Mia 3. Little Voices 4. The Serpent 5. Dona Evelyn
Race 13—1. Au Rapid 2. Jackpot 3. Modulo Queen 4. Prince Camran
Race 14—1. Smart Kevin 2. Morning Glory 3. Tayp Ko Yan 4. Be Ready 5. Magnicolo 6. Trick Shot

AUCTION IN MALINTA

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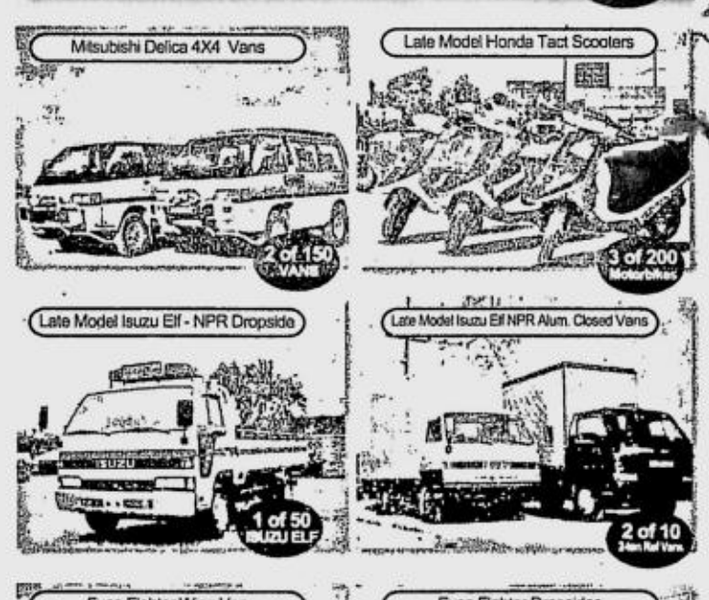

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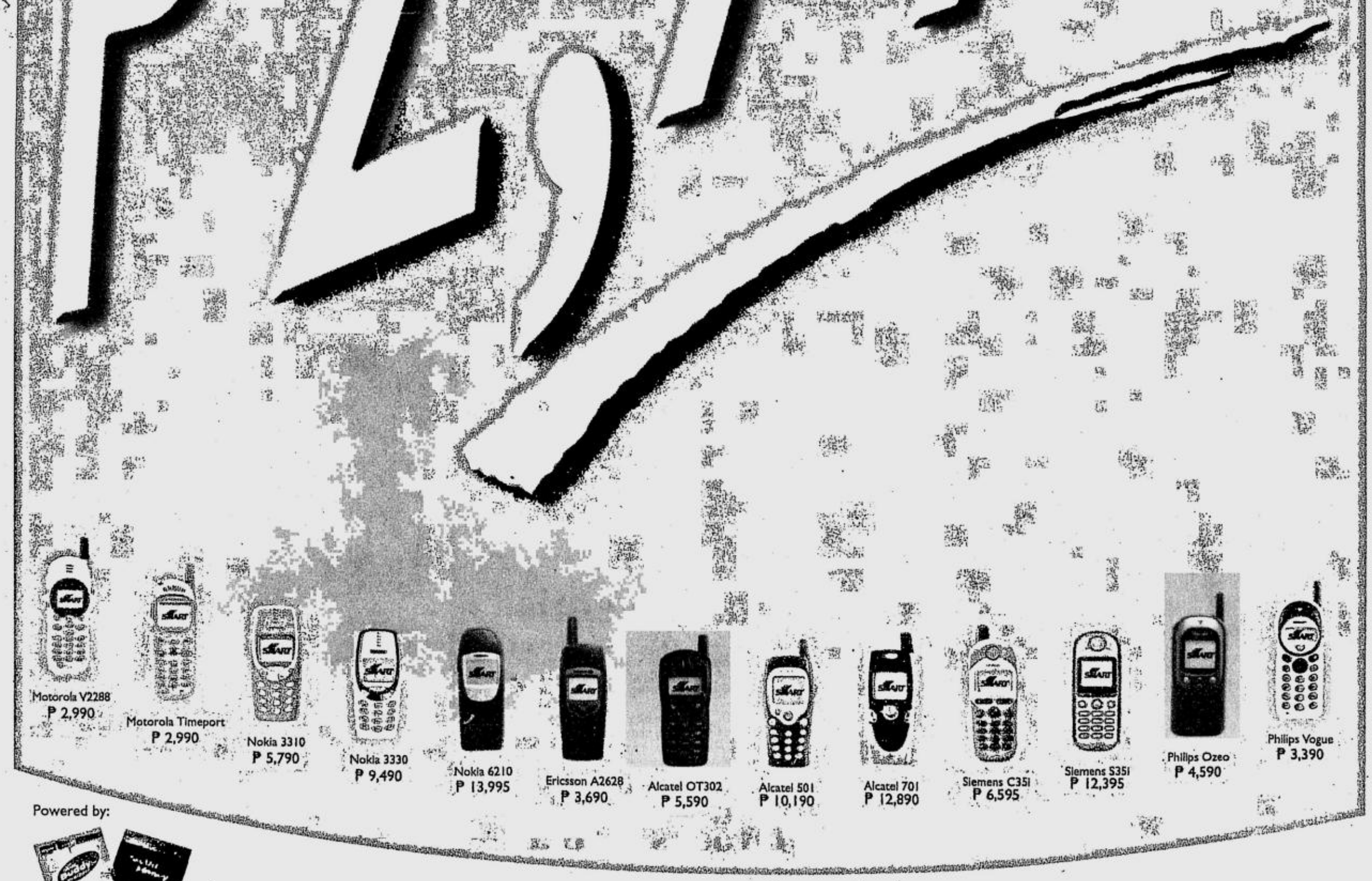

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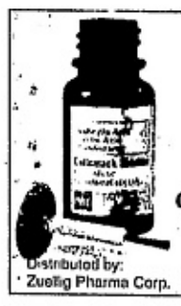
Senate intervention sought in Mehan Garden controversy A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor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Sale of 'rugby' to be restricted

DSWD to conduct 'rescue missions' for users

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

NO ID, no "rugby."

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman yesterday said the government is planning to restrict the sale of the much-abused adhesive to stop the growing number of street children from getting hooked on the addictive substance.

Soliman told reporters during the weekly press forum at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City that, like in the case of cigarettes or liquor, buyers would have to show their ID cards to prove they are not minors, or present proof that the substance would be used properly.

DSWD/ A22

SOLIMAN

Pagcor to provide funds for MMDA public pay toilets

MANY Metro Manilans want a public pay toilet in their neighborhood, according to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which will provide the funds for the construction of the public toilets.

"The public is clamoring for it," said Pagcor Chair Efraim C. Genuino, citing reports from Pagcor's general services field operatives in Metro Manila.

Genuino recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Ruben Abalos and PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza on the establishment of modern public toilets in the metropolis.

The MMDA will provide the locations, the PNP will provide manpower protection while Pagcor will

PAGCOR/ A22

ESTARIS

Healing addicts with kindness and caring

BY SENEN BRAVO

NURSE Kathy Estaris, 23, found her calling at Lambs Homecare, a drug rehabilitation center in San Juan, where she and three other nurses take care of more than 30 patients.

TALES OF THE CITY

She started working at Lambs in 1999, the year it was founded. She is also its first nurse and it was her first job.

"*Kuya* Eric, the owner of the homecare, is my neighbor in San Juan," Estaris says. "When I graduated in 1998 he convinced me to be their nurse."

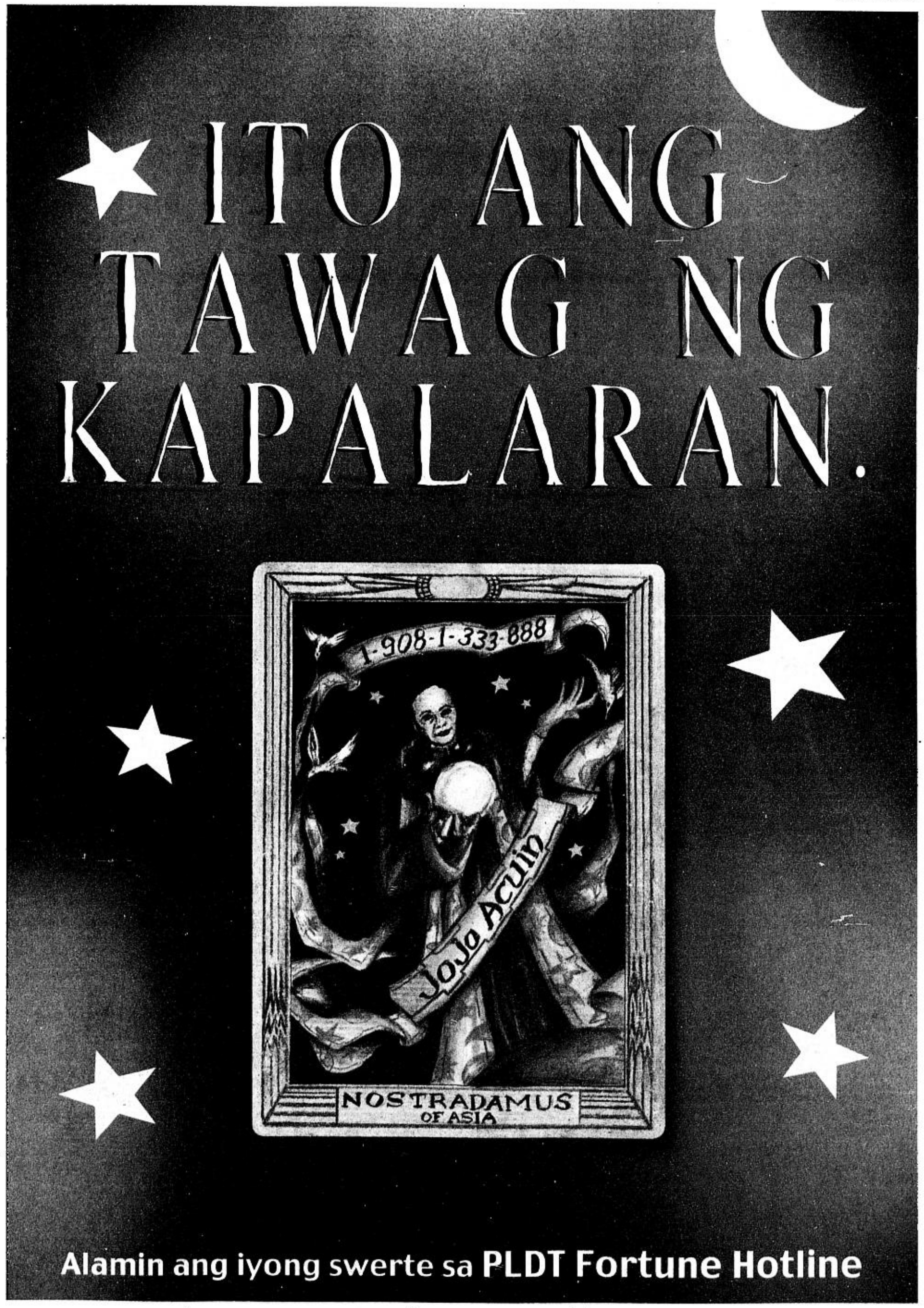
Working abroad was one of her career options, but she chose to work in the company of drug addicts, alcoholics, the depressed, schizos and an epileptic. The nursing work is in three shifts—7 a.m.-7 p.m., 3-11 p.m. and 11 p.m-7 a.m.

She was inspired by her father who works at a similar institution in the United States.

HEALING/ A22

FAMILY ACT ROGER MARGALLO

Three sisters and a brother, all members of the Irish band the Corrs, arrived Saturday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for two shows last night and tonight at the Araneta Coliseum. The band, composed of (from left) vocalist Andrea, guitarist and keyboard player Jim, violinist Sharon and drummer Caroline, is behind such hits as "Breathless," "Irresistible," "At Your Side" and "No More Cry."



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Green photo competition deadline

THOSE interested in joining the "Sagipin ang Dagat... Sagipin ang Bukas" photo contest has until Monday, Oct. 1, to submit their entries.

The photo contest, sponsored by the Fisheries Resource Management Project (FRMP) of the Department of Agriculture and organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc., aims to focus attention on fisheries resource protection, conservation and sustainable development.

Entries may also show both the positive (bountiful harvest) and the negative (destructive methods of fishing).

Entries must be in color and 8 X 10 with or without borders. They should have a title, caption or brief background on where and when the photos were taken and the circumstances surrounding the picture-taking.

Prizes are P20,000 for the first place; P15,000, second; P10,000, third, plus trophies. Fourth to 10th place winners will get medals.

Entries can be submitted to the Philippine Information Agency, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, tel. 920-7941 local 4256; PIA regional offices; FPPF, 7/F Comfoods Bldg., Buendia Avenue corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City, tel. 843-5341/ 813-7420.

GMA scholars at TUP

A TOTAL of 541 scholars are enrolled in the Technological University of the Philippines in line with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's call to help poor but deserving high school graduates.

More than 700 applicants from poor areas identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development took the entrance examinations at the TUP. The 541 who passed get free tuition and miscellaneous fees and a monthly allowance of P1,000.

TUP decided to take GMA scholars following a breakfast meeting with DSWD officials headed by Secretary Corazon Julian Soliman, TUP president Fedeserio C. Camarao and Dean of Students Dr. Ave R. Belgica, and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines' Dr. Ofelia Caragues.

Margallo, 62

ROBERTO "Pati" Margallo, brother of INQUIRER photographer Roger Margallo, died Friday night in Parañaque. He was 62.

Margallo is survived by his wife Cynia and children Barbara, JP, Chiqui and Stefanie.

His remains lie at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel along Sucat Road in Parañaque.

Burial will be at 1 p.m. on Oct. 3 at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat.

TOUCHING
For many Filipinos, going to church on Sundays is never complete without touching the images of their patron saints. They believe that touching the images, like these seated ones at the Binondo church in Sta. Cruz, Manila, will add power to their prayers. ERIK ARAZAS

Senate intervention sought in Mehan Garden controversy

BY JEROME ANING

SENATORS should do something about the Mehan Gardens controversy before the Manila city government "destroys" the park's historical and archaeological heritage by building a parking facility on it, according to conservationists.

Senators Loren Legarda and Blas Ople have already taken interest in the issue, which pits the Manila city government against the National Historical Institute, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and cultural conservationists.

"We fear that the Mehan would already be destroyed by the time the Senate takes action," Tina Testa, a Manila-based conservationist and historical researcher, told the INQUIRER.

She said the only hope of conservationists is to bring the matter to the courts. But many of them fear that the case will drag on and their effort to preserve the Mehan as a park will amount to nothing.

As early as July 31, Legarda filed a resolution urging the Senate committee on tourism and environment to conduct an inquiry into the project being undertaken by the City Hall's contractor, Park 'N Ride Inc.

Last week, Ople urged either the NHI or the DENR to sue the Manila city government so that the controversy would have a "definitive conclusion."

"My suggestion is not to harass Mayor Lito Atienza or side with the NHI but simply to get at the truth and see which side is correct," Ople said.

The pros and antis, he noted, have been waging "a seesaw battle" in the media "that claims no winner but leaves much of the public perplexed and wondering why the government cannot get its act together."

Ople, who earlier opposed the equally controversial construction of the Centennial Tower and the opening of fast-food outlets at Rizal Park, said he "would not be unhappy if the Mehan retained its pristine state."

Legarda said she believes the construction of a parking structure or school in the Mehan would contribute to the worsening traffic situation in Manila and deprive the metropolis of a "source of greenery, oxygen, rest and free recreation."

She also expressed alarm over what she called "the needless destruction of the nation's cultural and historical wealth" caused by the project.

The controversy, Ople said, is not a local issue but one with national implications since the preservation of historical and cultural treasures is at stake.

Testa has also written Sen. Renato Cayetano, chair of the Senate committee on education and culture, and asked him to mediate in the controversy.

The city government insists that the P48.5-million Park 'N Ride project is not being built on a part of the 140-year-old Mehan Garden but on Basa Street and a portion of the Metropolitan Theater's parking lot.

City Hall also maintains that the Mehan Garden was never declared a historical site.

But the NHI refutes this. The DENR, citing the NHI position, has ordered the construction stopped, saying Park 'N Ride should have first asked permission from the institute before it started construction work.

Mayor Atienza vowed to finish the parking facility project and refused to follow the DENR order.

City legal officer Melchor Monsod told critics of the project to just go to court because the city government is "certain that it is exercising its legal rights, duties and responsibilities" in continuing with the project.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, September 30, 2001
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Am 6:1, 4-7**

Woe to those proud people who live, over-confident on the hill of Samaria!
Woe to you, men of renown, from the first among the nations, to whom the people of Israel come!
You lie on beds inlaid with ivory and sprawl on your couches; you eat lamb from the flock and veal from calves fattened in the stall.
You strum on your harps, and like David, try out new musical instruments.
You drink wine by the bowlful and anoint yourselves with the finest oils, but you do not grieve over the ruins of Joseph.
Therefore you will be the first to go into exile; and the feast of sprawlers will be over.

2nd Reading: **1 Tim 6:11-16**

But you, man of God, shun all this. Strive to be holy and godly. Live in faith and love, with endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith and win everlasting life to which you were called when you made the good profession of faith in the presence of so many witnesses.
Now, in the presence of God who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus who gave the good testimony before Pontius Pilate, I command you to keep the commandment. Keep yourself pure and blameless until the glorious coming of Christ Jesus, our Lord, which God will bring about at the proper time, he, the magnificent sovereign, King of kings and Lord of lords. To him, alone immortal, who lives in unapproachable light and whom no one has ever seen or can see, to him be honor and power forever and ever. Amen!

Gospel: **Lk 16:19-31**

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and fine linen and feasted every day. At his gate lay Lazarus, a poor man covered with sores, who longed to eat just the scraps falling from the rich man's table. Even dogs used to come and lick his sores. It happened that the poor man died and angels carried him to take his place with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. From hell where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham afar off, and with him Lazarus at rest.
He called out: 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus with the tip of his finger dipped in water to cool my tongue, for I suffer so much in this fire.'
Abraham replied: 'My son, remember that in your lifetime you were well-off while the lot of Lazarus was misfortune. Now he is in comfort and you are in agony. But that is not all. Between your place and ours a great chasm has been fixed, so that no one can cross over from here to you or from your side to us.'
The rich man implored once more: 'Then I beg you, Father Abraham, to send Lazarus to my father's house where my five brothers live. Let him warn them so that they may not end up in this place of torment.' Abraham replied: 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' But the rich man said: 'No, Father Abraham. But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'
Abraham said: 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the grave.'"

Commentary

Here Luke presents a contrast between the city values and the ideals for the Christian community. The unnamed rich man is a typical citizen of the ancient Greco-Roman city whose ideal is the good life, of feasting and luxury. By the standards of the city, he has not committed anything wrong. In contrast is the helpless beggar. He lives up to his name which means "one whom God helps." Upon death, he is carried by the angels to heaven. The rich man likewise dies and goes to another place. The places of these two characters are reversed. A warning to the rich who do not care about the poor. Christians are stewards of God's gifts. Sharing is the name of the game.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Healing addicts . . .

(From page A21)

"My father is a cook-nurse at a homecare in California," she says. "I wanted to follow in his footsteps."

She said homecares here offer better services than in the United States. "Here at Lambs our psychiatrists attend to their patients weekly, but in the United States patients get visited by doctors only once in two weeks."

In the morning, Estaris instructs the patients to form lines at the garden to do a 15-minute exercise. Then she arranges them into groups to do handicrafts as part of their occupational therapy. Proceeds of the projects will be spent for their outings and Christmas party.

A two-week sportsfest is held at Lambs where patients play basketball, table tennis, chess, game of the generals and others.

Lambs is under the supervision of Dr. Noel Reyes and three other psychiatrists from the National Center for Mental Health.

Estaris' interest in psychiatry started when she was in college. Her exposure to patients with mood swings and erratic behavior has taught her to develop empathy toward them.

"There was this patient who became hooked on drugs after he found out he had been raised by foster parents," Estaris recalls. "I listened to his story and consoled him."

Of the patients under her care, drug addicts are the most manageable, she says. They are open to counseling, especially after taking anti-depressants, unlike schizos and the depressed ones who sometimes can be unwieldy.

"First, the patients take medicines to calm them down. After that, psychotherapy sessions follow."

May, June and December are peak months when the number of admitted patients go up. But to ensure that the relatives of patients get their money's worth, Lambs limits the number of wards to 30.

Apart from monitoring the patients' behavior through group dynamics, Estaris is also responsible for their personal hygiene and preparation of their food.

"We treat them with kindness and understanding," she says. "Like us, they have the right to live a productive life."

"A psychotic shouted at me, "Walang hiya ka, pakawalan mo kami," she says, recalling her worst experience at Lambs.

In her two years at Lambs, she has yet to cope with her fear of suicidal patients. "You'll never know when their next attempt will be," she says.

Lambs offers music/arts therapy in which patients listen to soothing music for 10 minutes. After that, a nurse gives them papers and they draw images reflective of their feelings and emotions.

"We ask them the reasons behind those images," says Eric, another Lambs nurse. "Eventually they open up."

Drug patients can now freely talk to their parents during family counseling sessions every Saturday from 6-7:30 p.m. "This way, pent-up emotions will find expression, and we are happy that most parents are cooperative," says Estaris.

(Those interested can call Lambs at 725-3665 or Eric at 0919-352-1434)

Pagcor to provide . . .

(From page A21)

provide the funds.

Genuino envisions at least 12 to 24 public toilets built and operating within the year.

Genuino said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered Pagcor to help look into the health and sanitation conditions of Metro Manila.

" She wanted us to provide the funding for whatever laudable project may lead to a sanitary environment and provide convenience to the people," Genuino said. "Her directive led Pagcor to spearhead a modern public toilet project."

He also noted the project's special appeal for women.

"With Pagcor's public toilets located all over the metropolis, women will no longer have a problem finding clean comfort rooms," he said. The project covers all of Metro Manila.

DSWD to conduct . . .

(From page A21)

Street children sniffing rugby in plastic bags are a common sight under flyovers and many other public places in Metro Manila. The children sniff the substance to ease their misery or hunger pangs, Soliman said.

She said the government wants to stop the spread of substance abuse among street children because it often leads to crimes.

On Sept. 13, sampaguita vendor Marycel Geralde, 13, was gang-raped and murdered by six young men who were said to be rugby addicts. The suspects left her naked body under the Metro Rail Transit central station near the SM mall on North Edsa.

Rugby addicts are also known to "graduate" to more dangerous mind-altering drugs as they grow older and get more money, police said.

But the government is not just planning to restrict the sale of rugby, Soliman said. It also wants to conduct "rescue missions" to get the children off the streets, she said.

DSWD social workers visit parts of Metro Manila where street children gather and take the children to government shelters.

Soliman cited as an example the vacant lot in Pantranco, Quezon City where Geralde was raped and murdered. The other areas that social workers have visited include Balintawak and Mindanao Avenue in Quezon City and Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City.

Since the government began the rescue missions in August, around 1,700 children have been taken off the streets and given a new chance in life, Soliman said.

She said that if commuters or motorists see homeless people on the streets, including substance abusers, they should call the DSWD crisis intervention unit at 734-8617 instead of giving them alms.

She said that giving alms would only encourage the homeless to continue to wander in the inhospitable, dangerous streets of the metropolis.

METROBRIEFS

Expressway collision claims 2 more lives

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan—For the second time in three days, another van collided with a truck on Thursday on the North Luzon Expressway here, killing two people. Police said the Manila-bound Besta van was traveling on the south lane of the expressway when its left rear tire exploded. The van swerved to the opposite lane and collided with an approaching truck bound for Nueva Ecija. Van passengers Carlito Cortez, 65, and Jona Cera, 25, died before reaching the Plaridel Country Hospital in Plaridel town. Their companions, Carlito Cortez, 65, Imelda Cortez, 45, and Fidel Cera, 31, were injured. Last Monday, two people were killed when their Manila-bound L-300 van was hit by trailer truck at Km 34 in Barangay Tabe here. Police said one of the trailer truck's tires burst, causing the truck to swerve to the opposite lane and to hit the approaching van. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Welder slain with crowbar

WELDER Danilo Mollasgo, 34, drank his last bottle of beer yesterday after his drinking buddy bashed his head with a crowbar in Quezon City. Mollasgo, of Fairview, Quezon City, died on the spot after Richard Ancheta, alias Barok, hit him in the head, said investigator SPO1 Cresenciano Bajao of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit. The assault happened at 1:15 a.m. near the house of Jaime Macaraig at the Lumantad Compound in Fairview, Bajao said. Mollasgo and Ancheta had drunk several bottles of beer in Macaraig's home. But when they left Macaraig's house to walk home together, the two men began quarreling. "We're still trying to find out what lead to the fight," Bajao said. During their heated exchange, Ancheta pulled out a crowbar and struck his friend in the head. Members of the CPD Scene of the Crime Operations (Soco) team found a gaping wound on the victim's head. Ancheta fled. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Touched by a live wire

ELECTRICIAN'S helper Richard Gallanosa was electrocuted yesterday morning after a metal bar he was carrying accidentally touched a live wire in a building in San Andres Bukid, Manila. Gallanosa was already dead when co-worker Celso Camo found him at 8:10 a.m. Gallanosa was an assistant of electrical engineer Ernesto Benez. SPO1 Edison Bertoldo of the Western Police District homicide section said Gallanosa was working on the third floor of a building being constructed at the corner of Concha and A. Francisco streets when the accident happened. Camo said he and other workers were downstairs when they heard a loud explosion and the lights flickered. When they rushed upstairs, they found Gallanosa's still-smoking body. Police said the long iron bar that Gallanosa was carrying touched an exposed high-tension wire that was dangling from the ceiling. *Jerome Aning*

Guard shoots down rob suspect

ALLEGED robber Judy Soriano made the mistake of preying on a woman at the Rolling Meadows Phase II subdivision in Novaliches, Quezon City. Subdivision security guard Allan Arroyo caught him and shot him dead. Soriano, of Tala, Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, was identified through an ID card found on him, said PO3 Luis Tabuena of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit. Arroyo, 27, of Old Sta. Mesa, Sampaloc, Manila, ran away after the shooting. Tabuena said the shooting happened around 4 p.m. Friday. Soriano, armed with a handgun, allegedly held up a certain Melinda Tan of her cellular phone and P600 in cash. Arroyo noticed the commotion, chased Soriano and caught up with him at the corner of Candor Street and Meadows Avenue inside the subdivision. Soriano allegedly tried to fight his pursuer, prompting Arroyo to fire at him, hitting him in the head. The bullet entered Soriano's chin, Tabuena said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Soliman eases job-loss fears

SOCIAL Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman yesterday allayed the fears of contractual employees in the Department of Social Welfare and Development that they would soon lose their jobs. Soliman said during the weekly press forum at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City that the DSWD might even absorb the contractual employees into its regular work force. She said the DSWD leadership is just finishing the review of its programs before it decides to absorb "more than 1,000" new regular workers. The department has around 4,000 regular workers and 1,200 contractuals, she said. She also rejected suggestions that the DSWD might be privatized, adding that a private DSWD might not have enough money to fund all of the programs the public needs from a social welfare department. She also clarified reports that her undersecretary for legal concerns, Dennis Villa Ignacio, had been relieved of his post. She said Villa Ignacio was not relieved and is only helping the Ombudsman in the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada. She said this was done because civil society organizations, which played a major role in Estrada's ouster in January, want the plunder case against the former President to prosper. While Villa Ignacio spends "most, if not all, of his time" working in the plunder case, she still gets advice from him on the legal affairs of the DSWD, Soliman said. She said the legal work Villa Ignacio is doing with the Ombudsman is part of the official request she made when she asked for the creation of the post of DSWD undersecretary for legal affairs. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	BANYO QUEEN
5	FAST & FURIOUS
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	PUKYUTAN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9209453

1	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	PUKYUTAN
5	HEART BREAKERS
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	PRINCESS DIARIES
8	FAST & FURIOUS
9	SCARY MOVIE 2
10	LA VIDA ROSA
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	ENEMY AT THE GATES

SM CENTERPOINT 7140522 - 7181418

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	FAST & FURIOUS
4	SCARY MOVIE 2
5	PRINCESS DIARIES
6	PUKYUTAN
7	KNIGHT'S TALE
8	ENEMY AT THE GATES
9	ORIGINAL SIN
10	BANYO QUEEN

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	PUKYUTAN
6	SCARY MOVIE 2
7	CLOSED
8	FAST & FURIOUS
9	ORIGINAL SIN
10	KNIGHT'S TALE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350140

1	A.I.
2	ENEMY AT THE GATES
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	KNIGHT'S TALE
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	HEART BREAKERS
8	PRINCESS DIARIES
9	ORIGINAL SIN
10	SCARY MOVIE 2
11	LA VIDA ROSA
12	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820805

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	ENEMY AT THE GATES

SM CEBU 2313816

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	KNIGHT'S TALE
3	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	MANO MANO 2
6	BANYO QUEEN
7	SCARY MOVIE 2

SM CITY MANILA 5238240

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	ENEMY AT THE GATES
6	KNIGHT'S TALE
7	A.I.
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	LA VIDA ROSA
10	BANYO QUEEN
11	SCARY MOVIE 2
12	PRINCESS DIARIES

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	CLOSED
3	SUGAR & SPICE
4	SEX MEDUSA
5	MANO MANO 2
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	CLOSED
8	SCARY MOVIE 2

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1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	ORIGINAL SIN
6	KNIGHT'S TALE
7	ENEMY AT THE GATES
8	SCARY MOVIE 2
9	BANYO QUEEN
10	LA VIDA ROSA
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	A.I.

SM PAMPANGA 7120015

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	CROCODILE 2
4	BANYO QUEEN
5	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
6	LA VIDA ROSA

SM SUCAT 8294975

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	HEART BREAKERS

SM TUTUBAN 2514302

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	LA VIDA ROSA

SM DAVAO

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2 FAST & FURIOUS	2 FAST & FURIOUS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 PRINCESS DIARIES in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 FAST & FURIOUS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 HEART BREAKERS in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 HEART BREAKERS	3 FAST & FURIOUS THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 LA VIDA ROSA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 HEART BREAKERS in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	3 PRINCESS DIARIES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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				5 LA VIDA ROSA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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Filinvest Festival Cinema
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2 (SDDS)	HEART BREAKERS
3 (DTS)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4 GOLD (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
6 GOLD (SDDS)	ORIGNAL SIN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8 (ARNEL)	BANYO QUEEN
9 (ARNEL)	LA VIDA ROSA
10 (ARNEL)	LA VIDA ROSA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	HEART BREAKERS
4	PUKYUTAN
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE
3	LA VIDA ROSA

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	BANYO QUEEN

Starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	HEART BREAKER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FAST & FURIOUS
5	PUKYUTAN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	FAST & FURIOUS
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	PUKYUTAN

PREMIERE CINEMA (Makati City) Tel. 7053152 - 55

FAST & FURIOUS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SHREK
2	BANYO QUEEN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	PITCH BLACK
3	FAST & FURIOUS

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BURLESK QUEEN
A	LA VIDA ROSA

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	LA VIDA ROSA
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	KNIGHT'S TALE
5	ORIGINAL SIN
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
8 (SDDS)	HEART BREAKERS
9 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	LA VIDA ROSA

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BANYO QUEEN
4 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS
5	HEART BREAKERS
6 (DOLBY)	PUKYUTAN
7 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
8	HEART BREAKERS
9	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	PUKYUTAN
5 (SDDS)	HEART BREAKERS
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8	ORIGINAL SIN

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	HEART BREAKERS
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	LA VIDA ROSA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	LA VIDA ROSA

Dilson
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Lords	MAGENTA
Jennet	RESERVE

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1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	LA VIDA ROSA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	LA VIDA ROSA
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	PRINCESS DIARIES

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3	PUKYUTAN
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	LA VIDA ROSA
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	PUKYUTAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2 (DTS)	LA VIDA ROSA
3 (DOLBY)	FAST & FURIOUS
4	LA VIDA ROSA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
4	LA VIDA ROSA

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	ENEMY OF THE GATES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	ARMAGEDON
2	KAMASUTRA
3	PUKYUTAN
4 (DTS)	LA VIDA ROSA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
4	CROCODILE
5	SCREAM 2

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	CROCODILE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	CROCODILE
3	FAST & FURIOUS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	
2	BANYO QUEEN
3	PUKYUTAN

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	CROCODILE
3	NURSE BETTY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	LA VIDA ROSA
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	LA VIDA ROSA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SCREAM 2
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ORIGINAL SIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	LA VIDA ROSA
4	BANYO QUEEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	CROCODILE
4 (DTS EX)	ORIGINAL SIN

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5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	ENEMY AT THE GATES
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	ORIGINAL SIN
9	A KNIGHT'S TALE
10	PRINCESS DIARIES

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	A KNIGHT'S TALE
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	PRINCESS DIARIES

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVE
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	RESERVE
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	PRINCESS DIARIES

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	HEART BREAKERS
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	LA VIDA ROSA

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	A.I.
5	ENEMY AT THE GATES
6	SCARY MOVIE 2

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HEART BREAKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BANYO QUEEN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	CROCODILE 2
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PARU PARONG LIGAW / MAGENTA
ODEON	ORIGINAL SIN
ODEON-2	PUKYUTAN
ROBEN	LA VIDA ROSA
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SWORDFISH / FINAL FANTASY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	PUKYUTAN
REMAR	LA VIDA ROSA
REMAR-2	PUKYUTAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LA VIDA ROSA
B	SISID (open Oct. 1, 2001 sneak preview)
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-2	FAST & FURIOUS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	MANO MANO 2
CINEMA-3	PUKYUTAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	A.I.
CINEMA-7	BURLESK QUEEN
CINEMA-8	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-12	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-14	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-15	BANYO QUEEN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-3	HEART BREAKERS
CINEMA-4	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-5	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-6	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
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CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	APOY SA MAGDAMAG
CINEMA-2	ALFREDO LIM
CINEMA-4	RATRATAN

Free concert at QC Circle

RUBY Rodriguez and family and ABS-CBN stars, led by Leandro and Angelo Muñoz, Paula Peralejo, Desiree del Valle and Luis Alandy, comprise the lineup of celebrities in the Grand Rejoice Complete Concert today at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

The concert is part of the day-long activity, "Rejoice Complete Sulit-Tipid Family Day, Kumpletong Kasiyahang Pampamilya 2001," which will feature a wide array of fun and exciting activities for the entire family.

Rejoice Complete will sponsor this special family affair to pay tribute to the Filipino family's resilient spirit amidst the many crises of our times.

Kids will have a field day at the Rejoice Complete Carnival site featuring various games and fun rides, while their parents can shop at the Rejoice Complete Tianggê Circle, which will sell items at discounted prices.

The whole-day family affair will kick off with a marathon aerobics at 6 a.m., and will be capped by the two-hour, all-star family concert.

Raffle prizes courtesy of Rejoice Complete will also be given away during the concert.

To qualify for the raffle draw or avail of tokens for games and rides as well as discounts at the *tianggê*, participants simply have to present six empty sachets or one bottle cap of 100 or 200 ml Rejoice Complete Shampoo.

VALDEZ

Basil, Ryan in 'Crossover' reunion

105.1 Crossover pulls another musical coup with the much-awaited musical reunion of Basil Valdez and maestro Ryan Cayabyab in the station's monthly concert series, "Crossover Presents."

The show will be held Oct. 10 at Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila.

Basil and Ryan will render choice Crossover classic and revival tunes.

Joining them onstage are funnyman Jon Santos, accompanied by Lorrie Illustre and vocal group The Opera.

Session musicians such as Gerard Salonga on second keyboards, Mel Villena on saxophone, Bobby Taylo on bass, Cesar Aguas on guitar and Roy Mercado on drums will also backup Basil and Ryan.

For ticket inquiries, call Mandarin at 750-8888 or Ticket World at 891-5610.

Tune in to 105.1 Crossover for more details.

Roño: 'You will forget she's Osang . . .

(From page A23)

tor. Of course, there's more work and it's more difficult because you think more about the production, not just your role."

The story of "Mananabas" was presented to Cesar by Dabao five years ago, but only early this year did the actor decide to turn it into a movie.

Cesar had to audition new actors to play one of the characters in "Mananabas," since the role requires a rugged image, with long hair and a beard.

Cesar plays the leader of a lost command of the Army known as "Mananabas," who lives in the jungle, climbing mountains and crossing rivers. They come across a plant that gives them extraordinary strength and speed.

"One Mananabas can fight 20 soldiers," Cesar says. "We all have superpowers, and only a Mananabas can kill a Mananabas by cutting his head off."

Tough roles are nothing new to Cesar. He had to learn Spanish for his role as the national hero in "Jose Rizal." He had to swim underwater, go on a strict diet and do constant workout for his role in "Muro-Ami."

For both films, directed by **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**, Cesar won best actor trophies.

His fellow "Mananabas" are his brother **Rommel Montano, Samuel Evaristo, Jun Sanchez, Jerry Lopez, Cris Aguilar** and **Joel Afalla**.

Cesar also started work on another film project, "Bagong Buwan," the story of Muslim refugees in Mindanao, also directed by Abaya. The Star Cinema production is intended for the Metro Manila Film Festival in December.

Cesar will also start working on the biopic of the late legendary boxer, **Gabriel "Flash" Elorde**.

With his ABS-CBN sitcom, "Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis," (with **Maricel Soriano**) now off the air, Cesar will star in a new comedy program with veteran actress **Gloria Romero**. He plays the detective son of Gloria in a story similar to the **Sylvester Stallone-Estelle Getty** flick, "Stop or My Mom Will Shoot."

Cesar has also accepted a four-episode stint on GMA 7's "Larawan," to be aired on all Wednesdays of October, starting Oct. 3. He gets to work with some of the top directors in the industry, including **Maryo J. de los Reyes**.

The actor takes pride in his new bundle of joy, **Angelina Isabelle**, his first-born with wife **Sunshine Cruz**.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

ORIGINAL SIN - R 18 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	PRINCESS DIARIES - GP 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	HEART BREAKERS - P 13 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
PRINCESS DIARIES - GP 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50	LA VIDA ROSA - R 18 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	FAST & FURIOUS - R 18 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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TONTON GUTIERREZ
RAYMOND BAGATSING
and
PATRICIA JAVIER
EDDIE GUTIERREZ
GLADYS REYES
JETHRO RAMIREZ
and
DAISY REYES
ROBIN DA ROSA
SAMANTHA LOPEZ
STELLA L.
PERLA BAUTISTA
P.P. Vs. ADVINCULA
Criminal Case No. 001-04526
MARITAL RAPE
RHGF Production Initial Presentation
Executive Producer: RENATO HERRERA
Written and Directed by: NEAL "BUBOY" TAN
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@ AYALA CINEMAS
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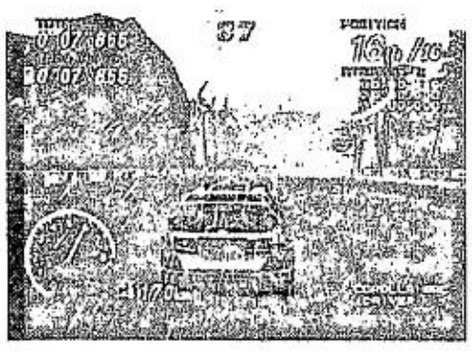
SEGA RALLY
Grand Finals



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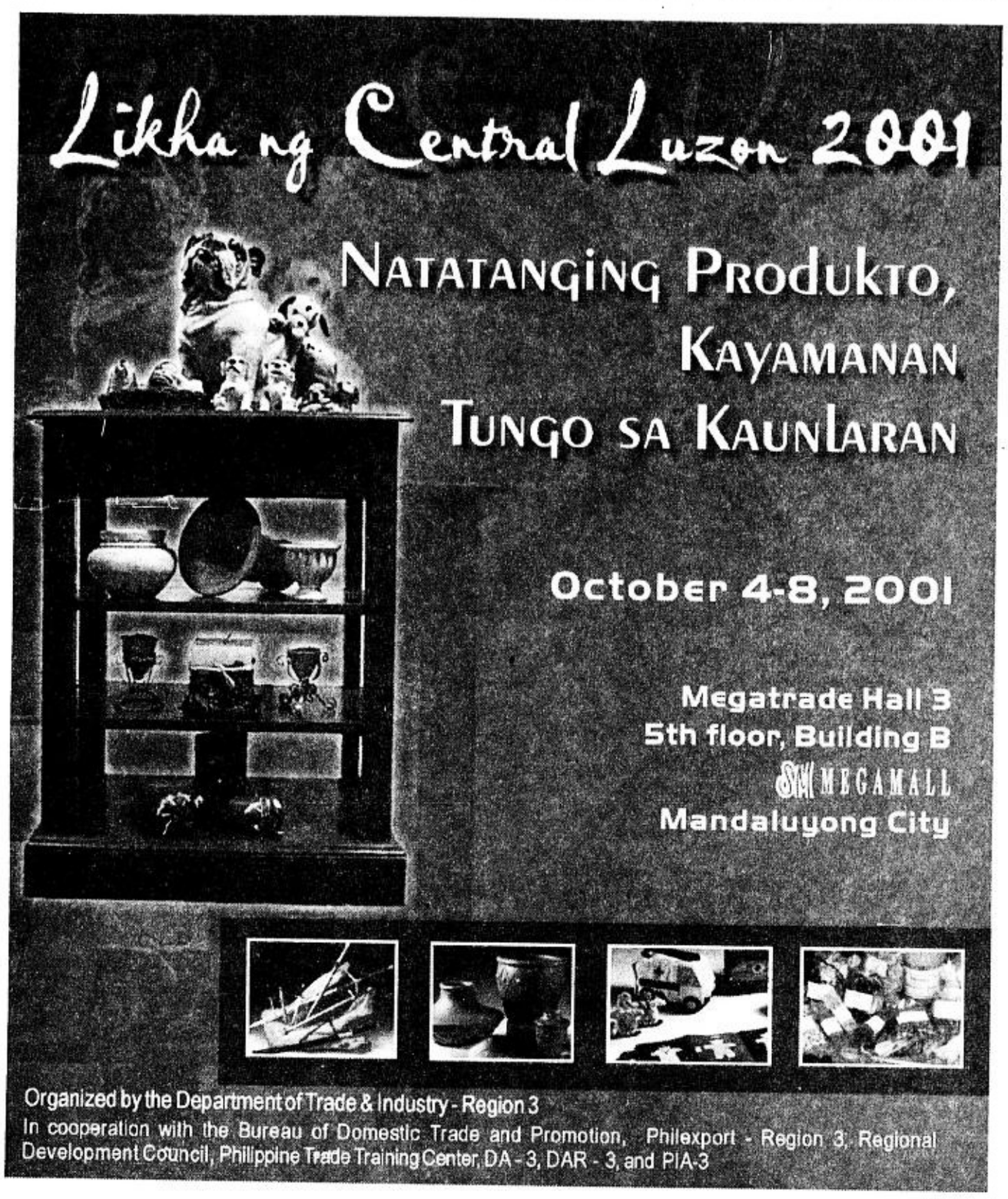
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor



Women directors showcased at Fukuoka filmfest

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AN UNUSUAL number of women directors' films are showcased in this year's Focus on Asia Fukuoka International Film Festival in Fukuoka City, Japan. This is a tribute to the important role that female filmmakers play in the Asian region.

Heading the list is the Philippines' **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**, who has been given the special honor of being made a Laureate of the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes.

Diaz-Abaya is also being honored with a retrospective of her movies during the Focus on Asia filmfest. In addition, she is the guest speaker at several public forums, school visits and media events.

Also from the Philippines, **Rory B. Quintos** directs "Child (Anak)." After graduating from the University of the Philippines with a degree in Broadcast Communications, Quintos started working as a freelance production assistant for various TV studios, later working as producer and assistant director.

Directing an episode of the TV drama series, "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" eventually paved the way for her to become a film director. In 1995, she made her film debut with "Basta't Kasama Kita." "Anak" is her seventh film.

From India, **Aparna Sen** ("House of Memories") is the daughter of noted film critic **Chidananda Dasgupta**, a founding member along with **Satyajit Ray** of the Calcultta Film Society. In 1961, she made her debut as an actress in Ray's "Two Daughters."

Thereafter, she has remained active as a leading actress in the Bengali-language Indian film industry. In 1981, she directed her first film, "36 Chowringhae Lane," which won the top prize at the first Manila International Film Festival. She has continued to direct movies by Adding "Parama," "Sati" and "Yugant" to her filmography.

In her own words: "All my films so far have been about friendship and loneliness. Friendship between individuals is the only thing that strikes me as meaningful in the chaotic and violent times that we live in—the only thing that endures."

From Mongolia, **T. Sarantuya** codirects "A Vanishing Trade," a short documentary, with **D. Tsenddorj**. She spent 28 years in the Ministry of Cultural Affairs after graduating from the Moscow Institute of Cinematography in 1972. In 1995, Sarantuya established Mongolian Movies, a private company, where she has devoted herself to film production and distribution. "Vanishing Trade" marks her debut as film director.

From Iran, **Rakhshan Bani-Etemad** ("Under the Skin of the City") graduated from the College of Dramatic Arts with a major in Film Direction. In 1973, she began working in television. After producing many short documentaries, she worked as assistant director on the film, "Thirst of the Demon."

In 1988, she made her film debut as director with "Off the Limit." She later filmed "Canary Yellow," "The Foreign Exchange" and "Nargess." "The Blue Veil" won the Fipresci Prize at the 1995 Thessoloniki international filmfest.

From Hong Kong, **Ann Hui** ("Ordinary Heroes") studied at the London Film School from 1973 to 1975. After working in TV, she made her first film, "Secret," in 1979.

She has since made films in a wide variety of genres. Her major works include "The Story of Woo Viet," "Boat People," "Love in a Fallen City," "The Exile," "My American Grandson," "Summer Snow," "Eighteen Sprungs" and "Visible Secret."

From Hong Kong and the United States, **Christine Choy** ("Ha Ha Shanghai") was born in Shanghai, China, and Studied in the United States. She made her debut film, "The Dead Earth" in 1973 and studied at the American Film Institute.

She has made more than 50 documentaries on Asia. Her major works include "Mississippi Triangle," "Who Killed Vincent Chin" (winner of the Documentary Award of the Hawaii International Film Festival,"), "Letter to Mom" and "In the Name of the Emperor." She teaches Media Production at the City University of Hong Kong.

In her own words: "My film is personal memoir about my childhood home in Shanghai, and my effort to understand the old and new Chinese society."

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

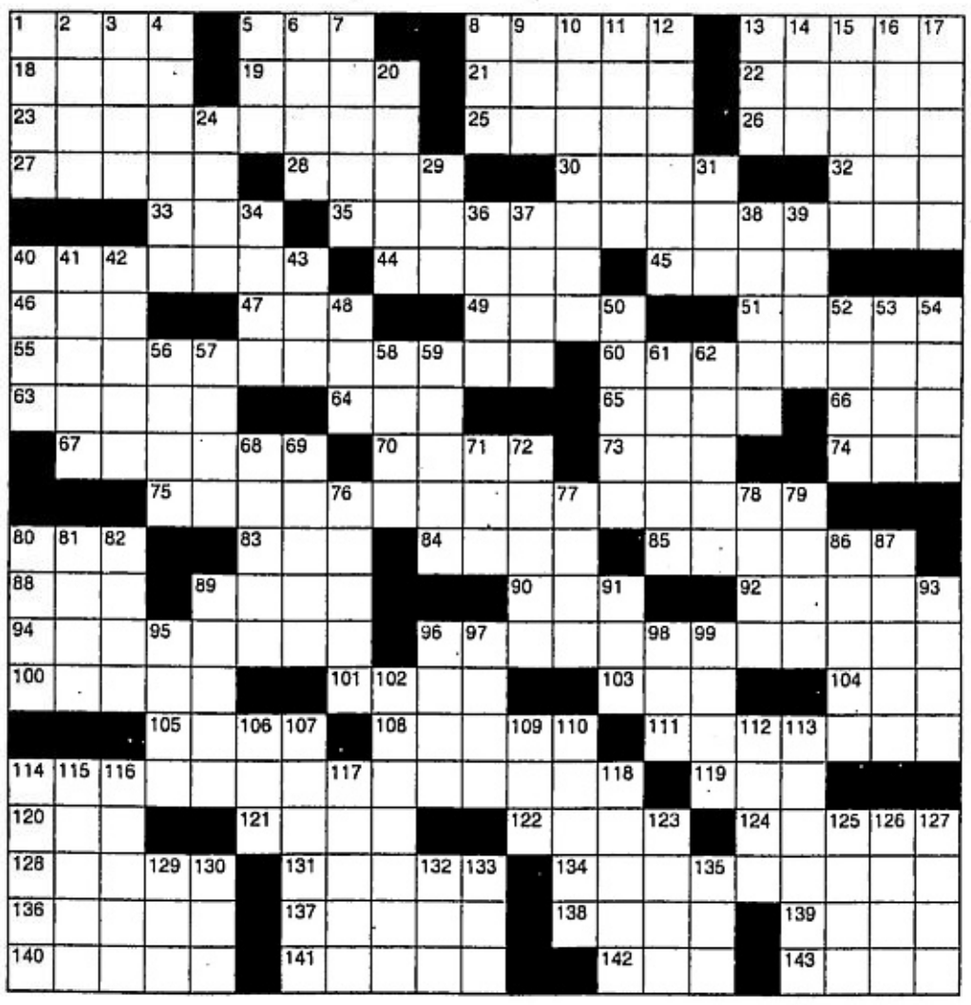
KETCH WORDS

ACROSS

1 Riches' antithesis
5 Recede
8 Early computer
13 Solid as —
18 "L'—, c'est moi"
19 Abandon
21 Cobra kin
22 Jug band instrument
23 Shipboard story?
25 Release the hogs
26 Cugat consort
27 Photo tint
28 Actress Copley
30 Radius' neighbor
32 Pan for Yan
33 Southern st.
35 Shipboard headgear?
40 Implore
44 "SNL" bits
45 — gin fizz
46 $ dispenser
47 Bon — (witticism)
49 Playwright Coward
51 "Songs of Innocence" poet
55 Shipboard cure-all?
60 Outshone
63 "Greetings!"
64 Groan producer
65 Aphrodite's boyfriend
66 Mowry of "Sister, Sister"
67 Relied (on)
70 Coral and Red
73 Sought office
74 Shrug part
75 Shipboard game show?
80 — Mateo, CA
83 Stevedores' grp.
84 Vichyssoise veggie
85 "Lorna Doone" setting
88 "Xanadu" rockers
89 Open an envelope
90 Collar a crook
92 Annoyed
94 "Calypso" captain
96 Shipboard vaudevillian?
100 Tauber or Thill
101 Hollywood org.
103 Wish undone
104 Place
105 Swear
108 Join up
111 Exact
114 Shipboard villain?
119 — es Salaam
120 Harem room
121 Doctor Zhivago
122 Next
124 Lucifer
128 Sorbo or Kline
131 Sum up
134 Shipboard order?
136 Cream of the crop
137 Video game name
138 Writer Rendell
139 Lace, often
140 Dieter's dish
141 Belief
142 Herbal concoction
143 No great shakes

DOWN

1 Umps
2 To — (perfectly)
3 Robin Williams role
4 Conflict
5 "Spring ahead" hrs.
6 Wild child
7 Pianist Jorge
8 Big bird
9 Actress Grey
10 Urge
11 Hersey's "— for Adano"
12 Cinema city
13 Canine grp.
14 Team scream
15 Conductor Seiji
16 French landscape painter
17 Eccentric types
20 Shimon of Israel
24 Connecticut campus
29 Squid's squirt
31 Internet acronym
34 Pinnacle
36 Marchetti or Vannelli
37 Perched on
38 "Ora pro —"
39 '65 Beatles' hit
40 Big name in Baroque
41 Lucy's landlady
42 Show one's teeth
43 Attila, to his wife?
48 Recipe abbr.
50 Find out
52 Dog star?
53 Actor Dullea
54 Gouda alternative
56 Tribe
57 Hawaiian coffee
58 Like jungle foliage
59 See 76 Down
61 Pack peppers
62 Tanglewood town
68 Boxer Griffith
69 Actress Sheppard
71 Had some hummus
72 Dispose of dollars
76 With 59 Down, "Paper Moon" star
77 Hunky-dory
78 Exclude
79 Comic Crosby
80 Splinter group
81 Burn remedy
82 It may be common
86 Giraffe relative
87 Romulus' twin
89 Walk like a peacock
91 Candy quantity
93 Granola fruit
95 Darned thing
96 Rampur royalty
97 Tombstone lawman
98 Word with fruit or Stanley
99 Bunch of buffalos
102 He fills the bill
106 Bashful
107 French pointillist
109 Select, with "for"
110 Operetta composer
112 Orient
113 Knitting and weaving
114 Berle bits
115 Writer Rogers St. Johns
116 Find fault
117 Minos' realm
118 Disprove
123 Postcard message
125 Poi base
126 Handel's "— and Galatea"
127 Verne captain
129 Call — day
130 "Waking — Devine" ('98 film)
132 Exist
133 Tar —
135 "The truth at last!"



ANSWER ON PAGE A24

Roño: 'You will forget she's Osang when you see the movie'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WE ATTENDED the full-house premiere of Star Cinema's "La Vida Rosa" last Tuesday at Rockwell's Powerplant Cinema.

"It's the first good movie I've seen this year," gushed Manila Standard entertainment columnist **Isah Red** after the screening.

No one in the theater that night could have been prouder than "La Vida Rosa" director **Chito Roño**, who said his latest movie would be submitted to film festivals abroad.

"La Vida Rosa" will be exported with English subtitles.

During the screening, child star **Jiro Manio**, who plays Rosanna's son in the film, had to be escorted out of the theater since "La Vida Rosa" was given an R-18 classification by the MTRCB. The film was approved without cuts and also merited a B+ rating from the Film Ratings Board.

Roño said he got the script of "La Vida Rosa" from writer **Armando "Bing" Lao** nearly 15 years ago, after he did the critically acclaimed "Itanong Mo sa Buwan," a Metro Manila Film Festival entry. But it was only early this year when the cameras started grinding for "La Vida Rosa."

The movie marks the third time that Roño and Osang are working together after "Curacha" and "Babae sa Bintana."

Roño is all praise for his lead actress in "La Vida Rosa."

"For me, this is Osang's best performance," he says. "You can see her maturity as an actress here as she plays mother to Jiro, partner to Dado and daughter to a blind mother (**Liza Lorena**).

"When you watch the movie, you will forget she's Osang. You can't take out the factor of sensuality because that's what she's been doing for a long time. But you can detach the person from her screen character."

After wrapping up "La Vida Rosa," Roño is working on "Yamashita," an action-adventure flick for MAQ Production, which requires them to film in the United States; and "Dekada '70," a period film with **Vilma Santos** and **Christopher de Leon**.

Another tough role for Cesar

CESAR Montano is one of the very few actors who are willing to face the demands of directing their own movies.

Cesar, who made his directorial debut in "Bullet," is again working at the helm of an action picture, "Mananabas." He also collaborated on the script with **Senen Dimaguila**, based on the story and concept by **Vic Dabao.**

"It's very different when I'm just an actor because I'm more relaxed," Cesar says. "But I feel more challenged when I'm also the direc-

ROÑO/ A22

MONTAÑO. A movie, a drama anthology, a sitcom and a new baby

ROÑO. Works with Rosanna Roces for the third time in "La Vida Rosa"

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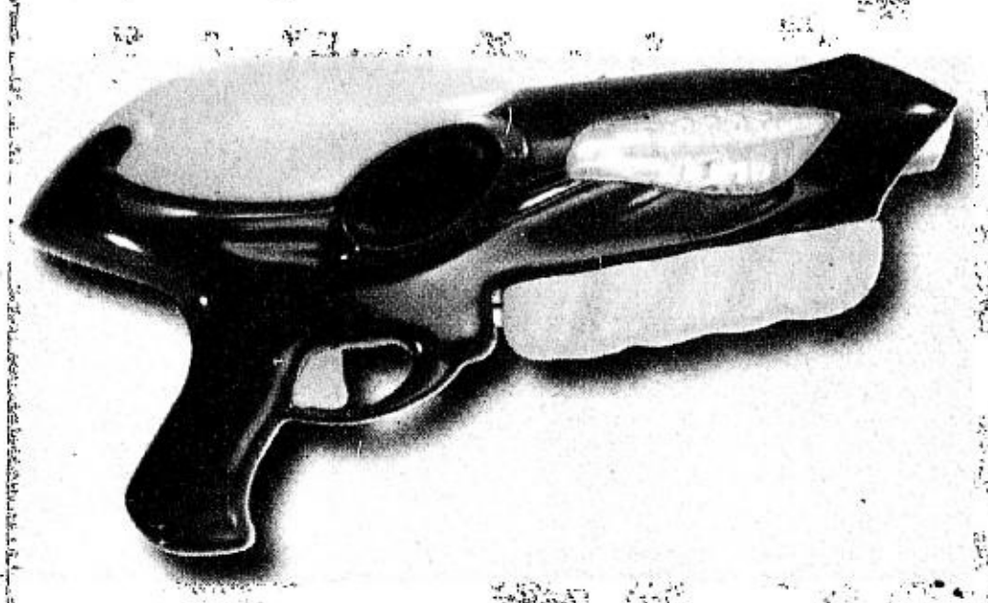

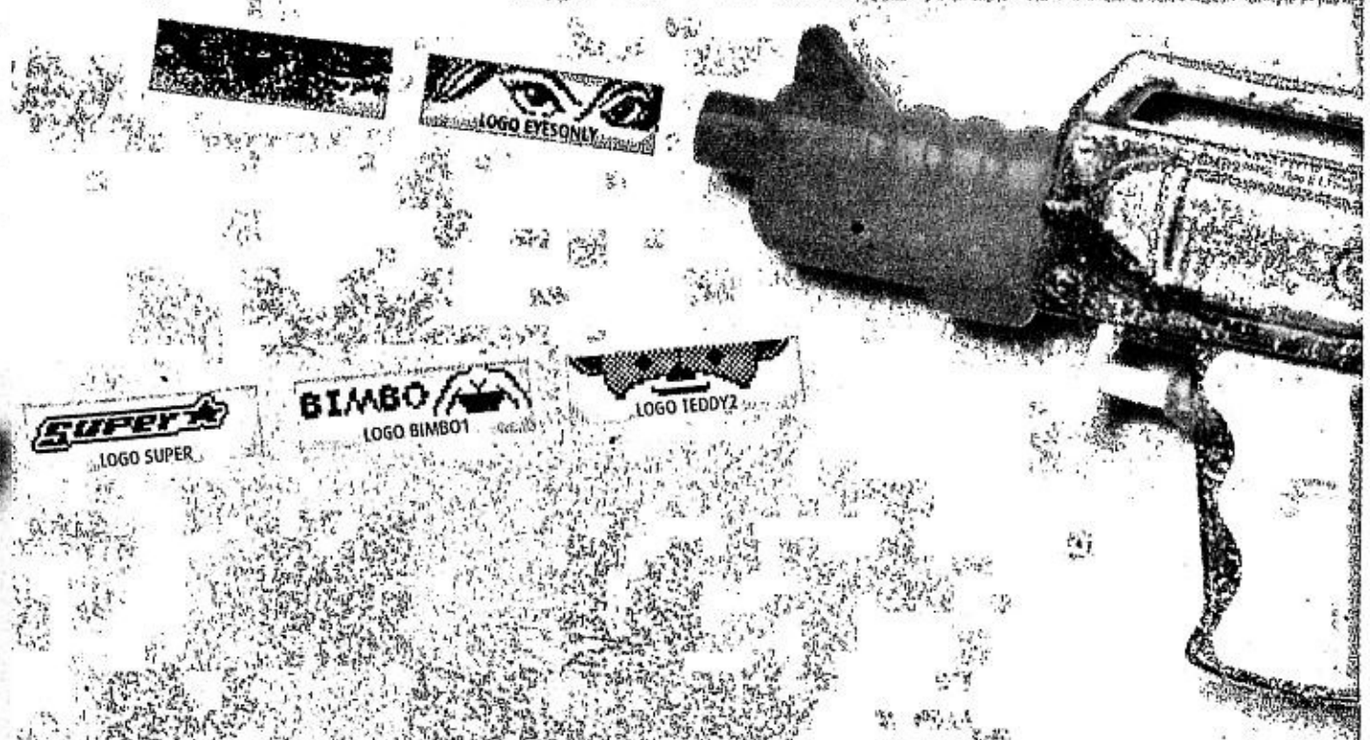

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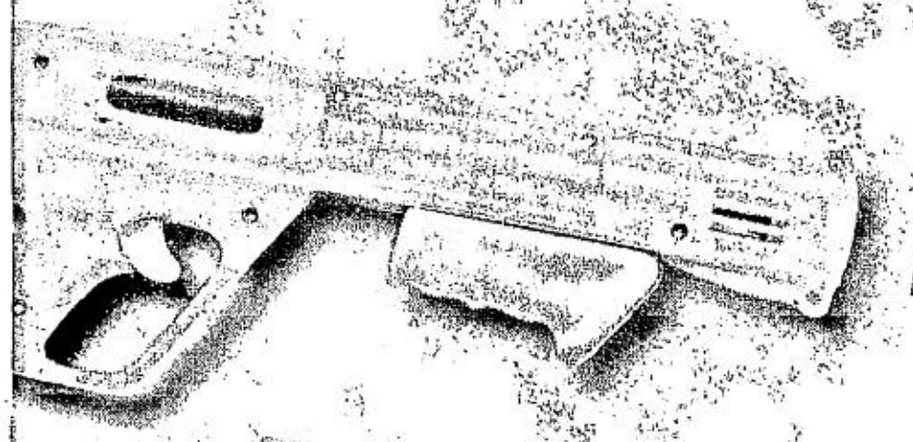

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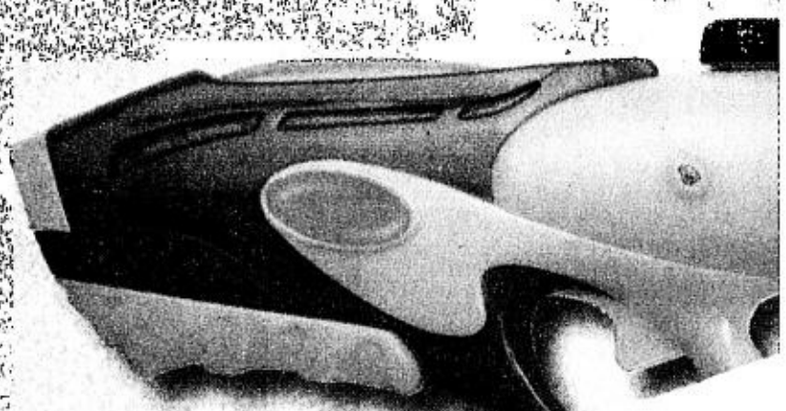

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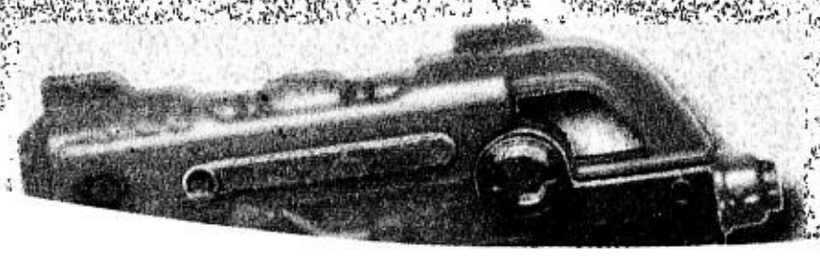

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SundayBIZ
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▩ MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

NOW HE RUNS A MULTI-MILLION BUSINESS

He started selling just to pay rent and live with friends

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

CEBU CITY—Like in most Chinese-Filipino families, Bernie Liu was asked to work for the family business during school breaks.

He did not get paid for his efforts but it was fertile training ground for the second of five children who would grow up to put up the popular Penshoppe and Oxygen brand of clothes that were born and bred in this queen city of the South.

FIRST JOB

The in-house training in entrepreneurship provided by his parents gave the 38-year-old enough confidence to go into business as early as his college days at the University of San Carlos, where he took up architecture.

"My friends in college and I wanted to rent a house where we can study and hang out together. We could not ask our parents for the rent money so we had to raise it on our own," Liu says.

BERNIE (seated) supervising a Club Pen pictorial in 1987

They then decided to sell shirts to their fellow students. Liu did the designing while his friends did the selling. They got their raw materials from Liu's mother who had a garment factory in Manila.

"We would get our shirts from my mom for about P30 to P40 a shirt. We sold these for P100. We also went about selling roses and everything else that we could think of, so we could pay the rent," Liu recalls.

It was Liu's first taste of earning money on his own, but he and his friends stopped when they graduated from college in 1984. They went their separate ways, with others practicing their degree in architecture while Liu worked full time for his parents.

His first stop was the lumber company based in Manila where he was named sales assistant.

He got P1,200 for his first paycheck and he used it to buy clothes that were in vogue. He also bought himself new espadrilles from Greenhills, and occasionally went dancing in Manila and in Cebu.

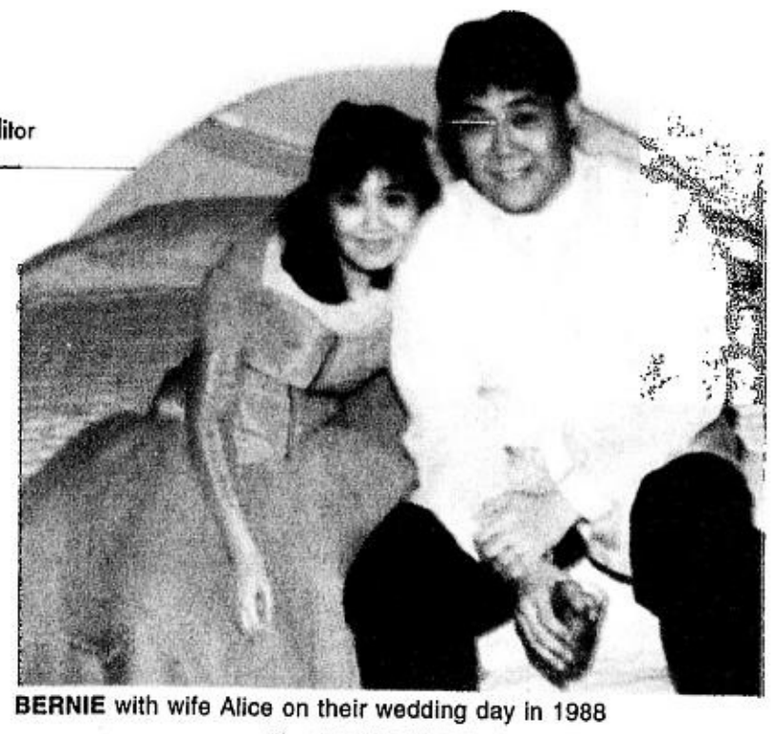
Liu, however, did not stay long in Manila, finding the pace of life in the city too fast for him. His heart after all belonged to Cebu.

He came back here and looked into the shirt business of his mother, especially after they decided to relocate the factory from Manila to Cebu. The Lius initially decided to sell shirts for events and giveaways but Bernie found the sales too seasonal. The workers did not get to work the whole year.

The entrepreneur in Liu was brought to the fore. Since he already knew about selling shirts, he saw the opportunity to cater to the teen and student markets, and this time as a legitimate business.

"I called up the same friends who sold shirts with me before and they helped my family set up the company. We launched Penshoppe in February 1986, just

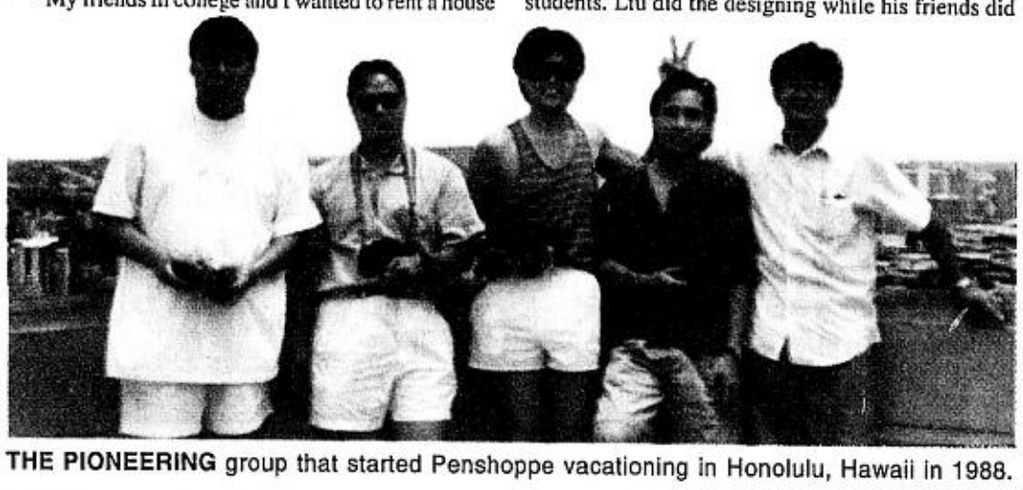
HE/ B2



BERNIE with wife Alice on their wedding day in 1988

EVEN as a young boy, Bernie Liu practiced his faith.

COLLEGE field trip, Baguio City, 1984



THE PIONEERING group that started Penshoppe vacationing in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1988.

Eighty-year-old still wants to set up new businesses

BY LYRA PORE-VILLAFAÑA

"I'M TAKING his place," Milagros Sevilla, the sprightly founder of Merced Drug and Merced Bakeshop, explains her presence in the office of her nephew.

She actually holds office in the upper floor, but has had to move downstairs to take over the purchasing operations of the business. "I'm forced to work because I don't know what to do."

She goes on to describe her typical day as starting with office work at nine o'clock, and extending to fieldwork in nearby provinces in the afternoon. Sevilla is 82 years old.

"I want to put up another business ... in a year or two," she reveals. According to her, running a chain of bakeshops is too labor-intensive; and she prefers ventures that will not employ as many people. Sevilla is really a doctor of medicine, who gave up her practice when her first foray into entrepreneurship turned out successful.

A graduate of the UP College of Medicine in 1944, she used to juggle her time between her duties as school physician at St. Rita College in Manila and her medical work at Farmacia Oro in Avenida Rizal. The owner of Farmacia Oro had given her free space, since it made marketing sense to put up a clinic inside the drugstore. But when Farmacia Oro closed shop in 1952, most of her patients were alarmed. "What will you do?" they asked her. "I'll move my clinic upstairs," she answered.

However, a Chinese friend of hers advised her to put up her own pharmacy.

"I said, I don't know anything about drugstores. I wouldn't know how to run it. But he insisted," she recalls adding that he told her to just put it there and "*Bahala ako sa 'yo.*"

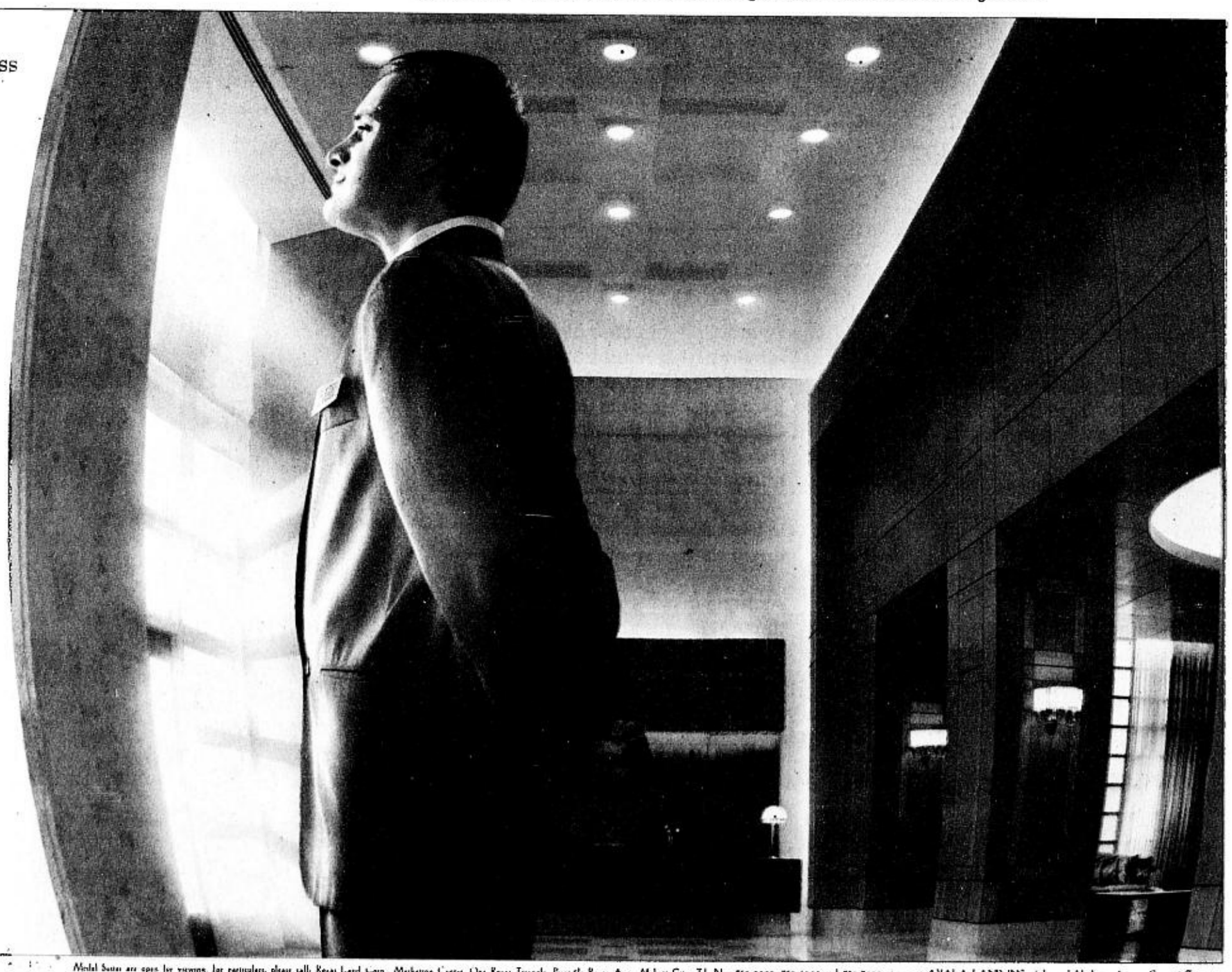
Thus, on Sept. 24, 1952, Merced Drug opened for business at the Free Press Building in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Sept. 24 also happened to be the birthday of Sevilla's mother, Mercedes Carreon Daez,

EIGHTY/ B2

AT 82, Merced founder Milagros Sevilla still looks for things to do.

Can A Building Be Breathless With Anticipation?



This building lies still in almost unbearable suspense, waiting for life to stir within it. Floors waiting for footsteps. Opulence waiting to be enjoyed. Service awaiting whims and wishes to please.

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IN YOUR FACE — BY L. P. LEVISTE

PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange president Ramon T. Garcia is not the first to be ousted from his post.
But while Vitaliano Nañagas II decided to leave quietly, Garcia vowed to not leave without a fight.

DIGITELONE, the data communications arm of the Gokongwei group of companies, have signed an agreement to provide information technology firm Accenture a dedicated 1.024-megabyte data stream. Signing the agreement are (from left) DigitelOne managing director Brian Go, DigitelOne president Lance Gokongwei, Accenture country manager Jaime del Rosario and Accenture country lead for technology services Liza Limpingco-Abastillas.

Your role at the workplace is greater than job description

"Bringing Your Soul to Work"
By Cheryl Peppers & Alan Briskin
Berrett-Koehler Publishers Inc., 2000

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

EXECUTIVE READ

I HAVE this artist friend who has a job as executive vice president of a construction-related firm. From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., he is the perfect engineer who wants every process executed with precision and who makes sure every work component works along a predetermined system.

After 6 p.m., he rushes home (not to catch the early evening news) to lose himself in his studio. He picks up brush and palette—and picks up, too—one other unfinished business: an oil painting on canvas.

I asked him once how he could apply himself with such intensity at work and with equal, if not more, passion at his art studio. His answer was unexpected: "I work here," he said, pointing to a busy mix of men and machines through his glass window, "so that I can finance my art."

Another friend gets out of the plush offices of a computer company during lunch breaks—camera in tow—to photograph the "remaining human elements" (his words) in the concrete jungle—a close-up of a vein-lined leaf, a long shot of a green patch in Makati, or the innocent smile of a street kid perched on a pushcart.

Why does he do it? His reply was as absolutely honest as it was mildly shocking: "By going back to what I most love to do, away from the hustle and bustle of work, I keep my sanity."

Has the present-day workplace somehow succeeded in sundering soul from body? Has work been deprived of meaning? Has high purpose become incompatible with big business?

A book offers an answer—and a way of "Bringing Your Soul to Work" which, incidentally, is the book's title, authored by Cheryl Peppers and Alan Briskin. The book asks: "How do we go beyond simply balancing work and personal life to an approach to living—that has integrity and beauty?"

However, while waiting for the initiatives of corporate organizations toward this end, executives and professionals need to find ways to avoid a workaday chore that seems to tell us to bring your mind and body to work—but leave your soul behind!

The authors first discuss the "inner wilderness of the soul." The wilderness conjures a mix of fear and excitement—apprehension over the unknown and thrill over the adventure it offers. This is exactly what the authors want us to feel about our soul at work.

True to their calling as scholars, they make sure "soul" has been properly defined—using several points of view: Greek, Latin, Hindu, Hebrew and some indigenous traditions. The Greeks look at soul as "psyche," the Romans as "anima" and the Hebrews as "breath of life." The authors add that the "Hebrew creation story implies the coming together of divinity and humanity, spirit and body."

A Ph.D. in professional psychology, Ms Peppers switches from theology to psychology, saying: "Each of us brings to work a multiplicity of selves." Explaining contrasting personalities within us, particularly the good and the bad side, she suggests "managing the tension" to bring out the best out of such turbulence.

The authors advise readers to take time reading the book and going through such exercises as keeping a journal—especially as they bring the readers to journey back into their past fears, and travel on into their earnest hopes and fondest dreams for themselves. The book also abounds with stories of conflicts resolved to the fulfillment of the soul at work.

This theme keeps recurring in the book: Be true to yourself at work. Link role with soul. From being lyrical, the authors become practical: They offer six ways to deal with "what pulls us out of our role"—naming them as: criticism, fear, transitions, competing roles, fatigue and loss of purpose.

The book is a well-written piece, rich with psychological, theological and philosophical anchors.

Perhaps, that's what the authors are, in fact, saying. All these truths agree that the soul must be greater than its job description—and must, therefore, find ways to express that "greatness" at the workplace.

Unfortunately, the authors say, some people are led to "rejecting a greatness for which they do not wish to be responsible."

This book insists that you take an inward journey into yourself, and it's hard to disagree. But, when the book ventures into relegating the battle between good and evil to simply "managing the tension" between positive and negative sides in a two-sided nature, it's hard to agree.

After all, good and evil are irreconcilable forces, and dealing with such mutually exclusive antagonist forces is much more crucial than dealing with quarrelsome sisters inside yourself.

On the whole, however, the book can be quite liberating (if only it liberates itself from subjects that are better left to theologians), especially with these stirring lines from Nelson Mandela, the legendary South African leader: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure."

The soul at work is powerful beyond measure. This book at least begins the effort to tap such power and, because of that, the book is worthy of one's precious time—when everyone else is asleep and your soul is suitably stirred. *(dantemv@i-next.net)*

Eighty-year-old . . .

(From page B1)

after whom the drugstore and, later on the bakeshop, was named. Customers would flock to Merced Drug leaving Sevilla's patients back in her clinic without a doctor. "Wow! You should see the people there," she exclaims.

According to her, when a flu epidemic broke out in 1954 and 1955, the masses just trooped to Merced Drug. "*Ay talaga*!"

Later Sevilla would hire a former Mercury Drug employee to help her run the growing enterprise. She recalls, "I was already relieved because of my manager, so I thought of putting up a bakeshop."

Why a bakeshop? "Because (I'm) very fond of sweets," she laughs. "I don't know how to cook. I don't know how to bake, but I know how to eat."

To this day, it's her job to scour the provinces for luscious pastries to be sold at Merced Bakeshop.

"That is what I do in the afternoon," she says, explaining her trips to Pangasinan, Pampanga, Laguna and Batangas. On Sept. 24, Merced Bakeshop will be one year short of 30 years, while Merced Drug will be 12 months away from its 50th anniversary.

"I don't want to expand anymore," Sevilla declares. There aren't enough relatives to help in the business. Her two sisters have passed away. One died a spinster while the other left behind two sons, aged 48 and 52, both of whom are childless.

Sevilla herself has only one child. "Everything came from the drugstores but at present, the bakeshop is doing better."

She laments the imposition of the senior citizens' discount without proper consultations with drug retailers.

According to her, the 20-percent price cut extended to senior citizens has truly depressed an industry that's already reeling from the prolonged economic crunch. She says because of the discount, her drug store lost P3 million.

Furthermore, money is hard and people no longer buy the prescribed number of tablets.

Though she has no more unfulfilled dreams, Sevilla hopes she'll live 20 years more. Helping herself to a santol preserve and a pili candy, she recounts the joy of sampling assorted sweets for her bakeshop. "There's pastillas in Pampanga that's delicious; it doesn't contain much sugar. I went there looking for new products."

SHE put up a bakeshop simply because she likes sweets.

He started selling . . .

(From page B1)

after the Edsa revolution. We named it pen because we wanted something to represent the student market and shoppe is just a different way of spelling shop," Liu says.

Many may find it surprising, but being an architect actually helped Liu build the Penshoppe business.

"My knowledge of the proper form and colors came in handy because I was exposed to the arts and my training as an architect. I also used it to design the Penshoppe stores," Liu says.

But no matter how extensive the preparation, Liu says that he still had to go learn many mistakes along the way before Penshoppe became what it is today, one of the top Filipino retailers and one of the first Cebu-based companies to make it big nationwide.

"Everything that could go wrong went wrong. We had wrong merchandise, wrong designs. We were saddled with a lot of inventory at one time or another but we took it all in stride because like kids who are learning to walk, we have to stumble along the way," Liu says.

But through perseverance and hard work, Penshoppe survived the different crises that marked its history, from the February revolution to the Mt. Pinatubo eruption and then to the Edsa II.

He attributed it to the resiliency and talent of the people who worked with him. He worked his way from just 40 employees at the start to today's 2,000. The first models were from Cebu, one of which was Alice who eventually became his wife and close partner at work to today's roster of hot talents such as Ryan Agoncillo and Cogie Domingo.

Penshoppe's growth can also be attributed to Liu's vision of really making it big nationwide. He says he was challenged by the fact that no other Cebu-based company was able to successfully bring their company nationwide. He was determined that Penshoppe would be among the first.

"I wanted to make Cebu proud and I challenged the people to do the same and work with me to fulfill that vision. Now that we have made it nationwide with close to 400 stores all over the country, we not want to bring it international," Liu said.

Penshoppe took the first step when it granted its first franchise to a businessman based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The store is expected to be in operation by the end of the year. It would initially cater to the 700,000 Filipinos living in that area, but he is confident that other people would patronize the brand, Liu explains.

This time, he is not only bent on making Cebu proud, but making the Philippines find its rightful place in the global teen apparel market.

Ho-ho-ho... Who's coming to town in October?

Setting the mood alight as the crisp night air changes weather, he swiftly opens this season during a month when Christmas sits right around the corner. Time to run through your list of deeds and wishes to greet the sound of jingling bells amidst his open sleigh. On it, he jovially stands with a red sack in tow containing hundreds of goodies suited for every folk of any gender and age.

Dashing through the concrete road of *Mckinley in Forbes Park, Makati City* is the sleigh of *NOEL Christmas Bazaar* landing through the chimney of the *Manila Polo Club* on the special weekend of *October 13-14*. Within these grounds will rest offered delights for the Holidays where over 150 men and women little helpers answer your every wish and...

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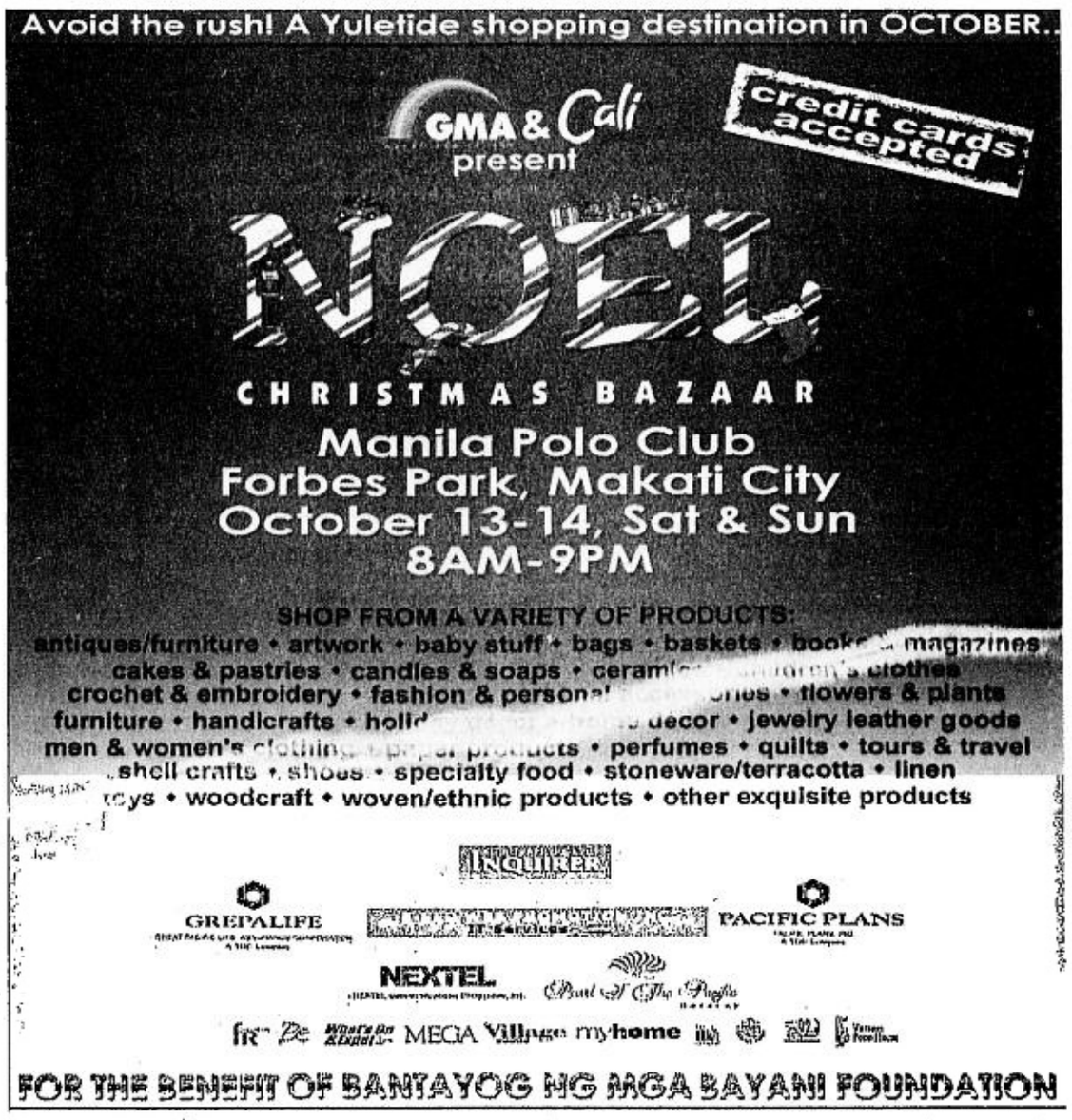
Assisting in *NOEL's* initial journey through the metropolis is the partnership of GMA Network and Cali with the support of Grepalife Assurance Corp., Pacific Plans, E-SEO Web Promotion & IT Services, Nextel Communications, Pearl of the Pacific and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

For more information on his arrival, call CUT Unlimited at 371-7405, 371-7398 or 373-3601 local 216 or email: eventsonly@edsamall.com.ph.



PILI DELICACIES

Even GMA hungered for Bicol's crown jewels

BY ROLY EMBILE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Bicol officials at the Legazpi City airport who welcomed President Macapagal-Arroyo who came from a working visit in Japan were mildly taken aback when the President pined for a *pasalubong* of pili to take home.

All preparations for the President's surprise entry flight seemed in order save for the absence of at least a box of pili nut candy—the most enduring and endearing of Bicol's produce.

Firmly established for generations as the top crown jewel of the Bicolano ingenuity (the lesser ones include the *pinangat* and a whole range of handicraft products made from abaca and coconut), the pili nut candy, however, was not made commercially available until 1936.

The traditional concoction of coconut and sugarcane jam laced with pili nuts in at least half a dozen varieties used to grace special functions like fiestas and weddings as *postre*, or after-meal sweets.

The regular Bicolano diet likewise includes the fibrous outer soft covering of the pili nut cooked in warm water and dipped in *patis* or *bagoong*.

Curiously though, it was the partnership between a Moroccan foreign legionnaire and the son of a Spanish ship owner that led to the mass production of the pili nut candy in the country.

Antonio Regidor, who was only 18 in 1936, with his Moroccan friend, founded the Central Pilinut Candy factory in Legazpi City.

Using an old confectioner's recipe designed for European and imported nuts given by his mother from the southern Spanish province of Malaga, Regidor and his friend pioneered the commercial production of about 10 unique varieties of pili candies.

Today's selection of over 20 varieties hardly differs from Regidor's recipe, which earned him the Panday Pira Award for Excellence in 1971.

Regidor's granddaughter, Rosemary Diaz-Battung, now runs the home-based factory near where the original one once stood.

She said the business has remained with the family and it has thrived and grown substantially since its founding.

Leaving a promising career as a nurse, Battung, 43, hopes that one of her daughters would take up the family business.

As heir to a dynasty producing the best-known *pasalubong* in the region, Battung is regarded as the reigning pili candy queen.

Appropriately so as her pili nut candies have found their way to VIPs visiting the city. The likes of Sharon Cuneta and her husband Sen. Francis Pangilinan, basketball players, recording artists and other show biz person-

EVEN/B5

TRAVELING to Bicol is not complete without the pili candies.

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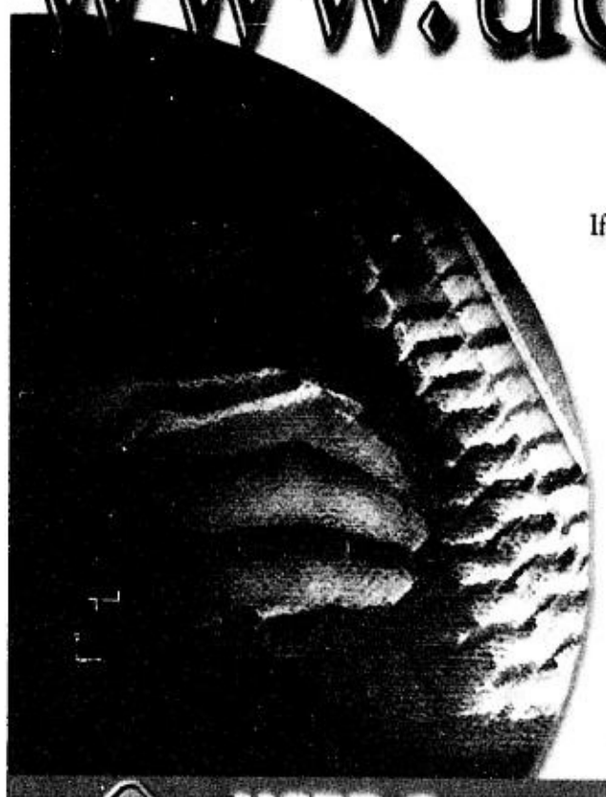

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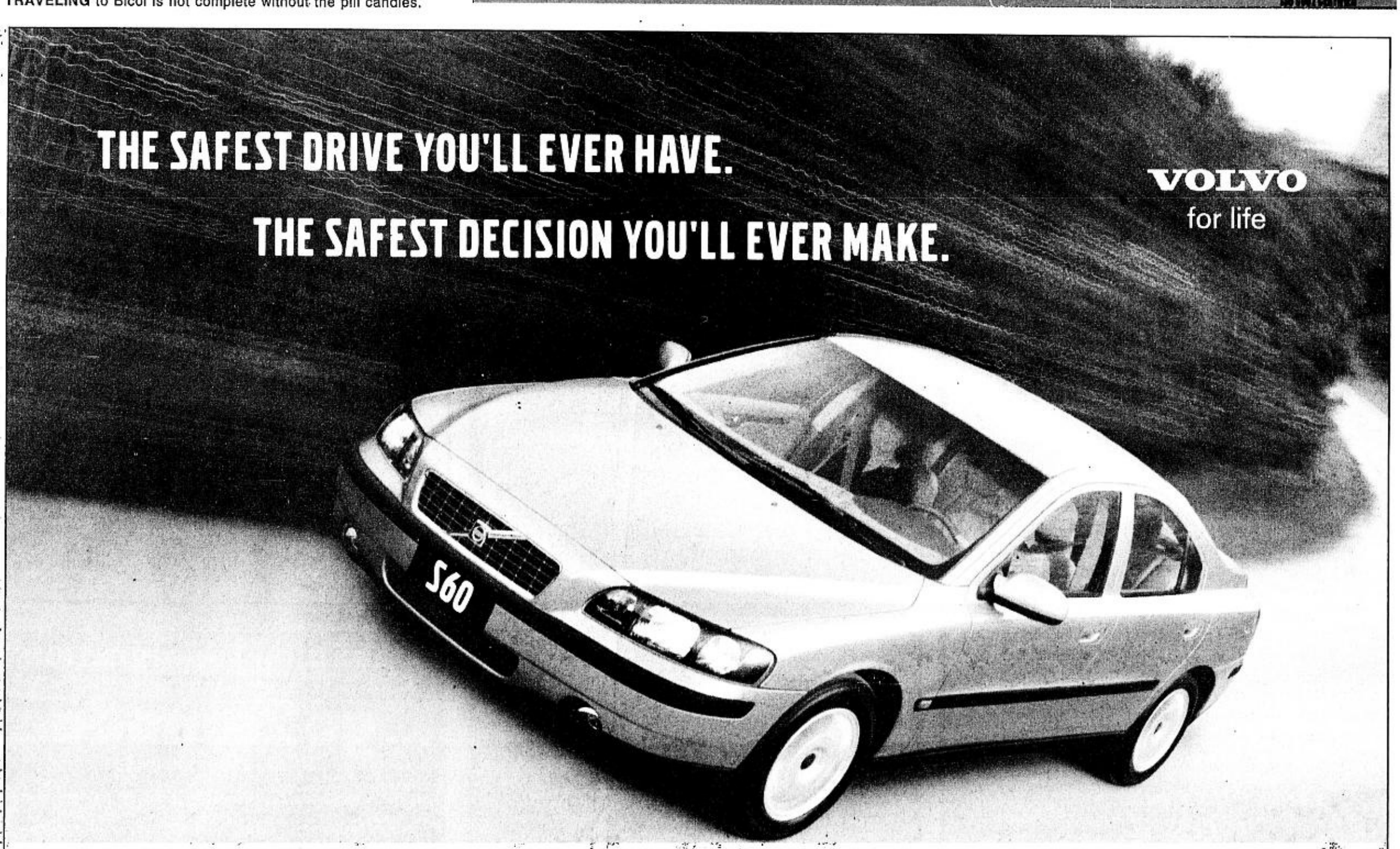

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dti BUREAU OF TRADE REGULATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

NOTICE TO ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRANTS

Pursuant to Section 12 (A) of Department Administrative Order No. 15 Series of 1990, the Department of Trade and Industry, through the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection, cancels from the record all Business Name Registrations which expired as of March 31, 2001 effective October 3, 2001.

Under the Business Name Law (Act No. 3883), as amended, owners or proprietors should renew their Business Name Registration upon expiration thereof.

This announcement serves as a formal notice to all concerned.

For strict compliance.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MARIA TERESA ARAO-MAHIWO**
Director

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Weave your way to profit with macrame

By Amelita R. Remo

LEARNING a new craft is a good way to pass time and have fun. But Zeny Perez of Craftworld says one can turn a simple hobby into a profitable business.

An example of a potentially profitable hobby is macrame, which combines several knots such as lark, half and square knots. It is a fairly easy craft that can be mastered with practice.

Macrame, however, may become more than just hobby. Perez says one can create various products such as curtains, pothangers, cell phone bags, purses, Christmas decors and beach bags through macrame.

For starters, one can create a cell phone bag that is popular among the cell phone crazy teenagers. A typical bag can be done in an hour and requires only one spool of regular-sized nylon cord. The cords can vary in terms of kind, color and size. There are nylon, leather, plastic or even corrugated cords, which are either plain or colored.

How To

The cost of a cell phone bag depends on the type of cords to be used. It could from a low of P25 to as high as P80 per bag if one wants a fancier design including accessories such as beads. These can then be sold for between P50 and P160 each.

Starting off with 50 cell phone bags, one would need a capital of around P2,000 to P3,000 for the cords and accessories, if any, as well as a bit of patience and ingenuity.

Perez explains, "You only need to know the basic steps and master the knots. Afterwards, you can already design your bags using various colors and accessories."

STEPS:

Cut 24 pieces of nylon cord of 40 inches in length, which would serve as the knotting cords.

Cut separately a 20-inch nylon cord to serve as the bearer cord, the center cord over which the knots are tied.

There are three main knots to be learned: the lark's head knot, half knot and square knot:

Lark's head knot:

Get a piece of cord and fold it in half. Place the loop of the fold under the bearer cord and thread the two ends through the loop and pull downwards until the knot is firm. There should be two strings that would be formed.

Half Knot:

Get two strings that already have a lark's head knot. There will now be four cords to work with (for clarity, the strings are named as 1,2,3, and 4, starting from the leftmost cord). Pull and curve Cord 1 under 2 and 3, so that it is at right angles to them.

Then take Cord 4 and place it under Cord 1 and over 2 and 3, then down through the loop formed by the curve of Cord 1. Pull the cords 1 and 4 up tightly and at the same time, hold Cords 2 and 3 straight.

Square Knot:

The square knot begins with a half knot. After making the half knot, tie the knot again as half knot but in reverse: Cord 4 is placed over Cord 1 and under Cords 2 and 3 then up through the loop before tightening. This makes one complete square knot.

Tie all 24 strings into the bearer cord with a lark knot. Group the strings into two and do a half-knot for each. Each pair would then have four strings. Tie a square knot for each pair (a set of four cords). Then do an alternate square knot by taking two cords from one pair and another two cords from an adjacent pair and tying them into a regular square knot.

JUST a little bit of practice makes perfect macrame.

Continue to alternate square knot fabric till you get to the end of the strings. Secure the end of the strings by tying them in a regular knot.

Tie the two ends of the bearer cord together. One has the option of decorating the ends of the strings or simply cut the excess strings and turn the bag inside-out.

One advantage of this business is that one has full control. Quality is easier to control since the products are done personally.

Another good thing is that it does not require one's full time. In less than an hour, one can make a bag in the comfort of one's home while relaxing or watching television.

Perez, however, advises that it would be better to put in extra effort in making these bags to give them an edge in the market.

"Add personal touches. This is where your creativity in terms of color combinations and beads, and innovation in terms of designs, comes in," she stresses.

This would especially be helpful if one wants to expand this business. Exporting is a definite possibility as it does not have a direct competitive market, unlike crocheted materials, which are mass produced in China and can be availed for a cheap price.

Otherwise, one can simply pass the time, have fun in designing and earn a few pesos on the side while learning a new and handy craft.

(Zeny Perez offers macrame lessons at CraftWorld, Park Avenue, Robinsons Galleria. For more information, call 634-5822.)

MACRAME is a useful craft to make bags and pouches.

THE MARKET for pili delicacies extends to Davao and Metro Manila.

Even GMA hungered . . .

(From page B3)

alities have come to her royal court of home-cum-display center and factory in Bicol.

She said the industry is far from being just a local business.

"We are barely able to supply dealers from Davao, the Visayas and Metro Manila who come regularly for large orders," she stressed.

Of course, they all come for the delight and the pride of bringing home the torroncitos de pili, carmilitos de pili, pastillas de pili, yemas de pili, mazapan de pili, or the crispies.

These are also available in most bus stops, train stations and ports and airports in the country.

Looking forward to the future of her business, she said she was undaunted by the growing number and size of the local competition and copycats.

There are at least 20 of them in the region, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

"What is more threatening to the survival of this industry is the present economic downturn everywhere and the threat posed by globalization," she said.

She said the way to survive is by improving the product for export.

Battung has already tied up with the Department of Science and Technology to improve production, including longer shelf life, and design highly competitive packaging and marketing.

Unknown, however, to most Bicolanos and perhaps even to Battung, are big strides being taken by the local government of Albay province to safeguard the industry by increasing the production of the pili trees, one of the leading cash crops in the Bicol region.

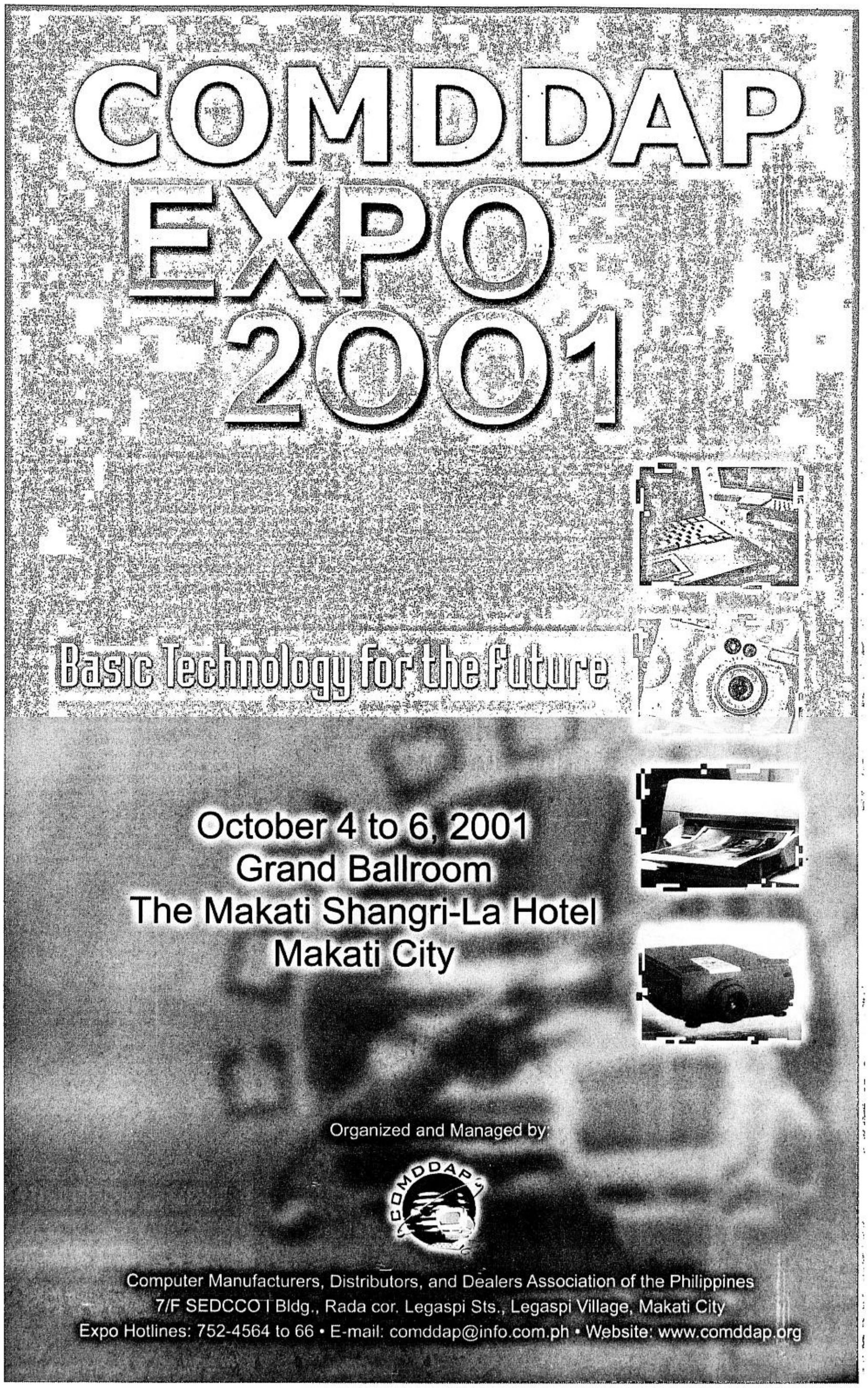
As early as three years ago, Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara has launched a province-wide campaign for planting pili trees.

Bichara hopes that in a few years' time, Albay will surpass Sorsogon province as the leading producer of pili nuts.

He hopes to achieve this by planting at least 3,000 trees a year by giving incentives to cooperating farmers and landowners.

The Bicolanos keep their hopes high that perhaps soon enough, the pili candy would become available in duty-free shops and other upscale stores side by side with Swiss chocolates.

And then no one, save for the most avid fans, do not have to go all the way to Bicol to partake of these treasures for the palate.



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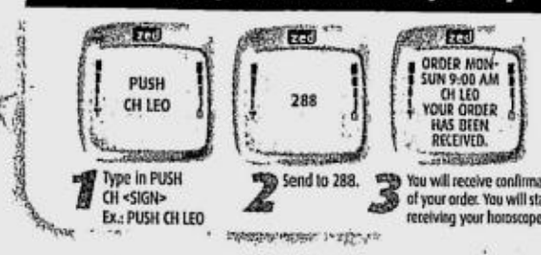

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❖ CORPORATE LEGAL OFFICER ❖

M/F, not more than 40 y/o; with relevant work experience in corporate lawyering, litigation, handling of public offerings, taxation and related fields. Must be a certified lawyer.

❖ TRAINORS ❖

M/F, 21-28 y/o; graduate of a four-year course preferably Mass Comm, BS Education, Business course; with excellent oral and written communication skills; must be good in Public Speaking; highly computer literate; can handle pressure and can adapt to different situations; must be willing to be assigned in Metro Manila, in the province and/or in depressed areas.

❖ COORDINATORS ❖

M/F, 21-35 y/o; graduate of a Business course; with 3-5 yrs sales and marketing experience; must be proficient in oral and written communication; computer literate; must be flexible, can handle pressure and willing to do field works.

❖ CORPORATE PRESENTORS ❖

M/F, 21-35 y/o, graduate of a four-year course preferably Mass Comm; with relevant work experience in similar capacity; excellent in oral and written communication skills and must be good in Public Speaking; computer literate; must be flexible, can handle pressure and willing to be assigned to do field works.

❖ PERSONNEL OFFICER/SUPERVISOR ❖

M/F, 30-40 y/o; a graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science/Studies or Human Resource Management; a Master Degree is an advantage; with minimum of 3 yrs. experience in similar capacity handling all facets of HR works.

❖ FIELD AUDITORS ❖

M/F, not more than 40 y/o; graduate of BS in Accountancy and must be a CPA; with at least 2 years relevant work experience.

❖ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ❖

Female, 25-30 y/o single. A graduate of four-year course with at least 2-3 years work experience; organized, assertive, and quick-minded; can deal with deadline-oriented environment. Highly computer literate with good typing skills.

❖ ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT ❖

Female, 25-30 y/o, single. A graduate of BS in Accountancy with at least 2-3 years work experience, highly computer literate and can deal with deadline-oriented environment. Knowledgeable in SSS, PAG-IBIG, and BIR Matters. Can work under pressure and willing to work overtime.

❖ ADVERTISING & PROMO ASSISTANT ❖

M/F, 25-30 y/o, single. A graduate of Mass Comm or Comm Arts major in Advertising with at least 2-3 years work experience. Preferably with adept knowledge in design promo strategies, lay-outing, drafting. Highly computer literate and can work long hours.

❖ SALES & MARKETING OFFICERS/MANAGERS ❖

M/F, not more than 40 y/o; graduate of Mass Comm or Comm Arts; Business course with 10 years relevant work experience in sales and marketing; preferably with experience in consumer goods industry; must have knowledge in various Marketing Strategies and has good leadership skills.

❖ SALES REPRESENTATIVES/MARKETING STAFF ❖

M/F, 21-35 y/o; graduate of Business Management, Marketing, Advertising or Mass Comm; proficient in oral and written communication; with relevant work experience.

❖ EDITOR / ASST. EDITOR / EDITORIAL STAFF ❖

M/F, not over 35 y/o; holder of Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Mass Comm or English Comm Arts; preferably with background in Business Administration Management; computer literate; creative, has keen eyes for details and must have relevant working experience in publication.

❖ PROGRAMMERS ❖

Male, not more than 27 y/o; must be a graduate of Comp. Scie./Com. Eng or ECE; with at least 3-yrs. relevant work experience in the following applications: SQL Server 7 or 2000, Microsoft Access 2000 or XP Visual Basic, Internet Development, JAVA ASP, Crystal Report Version 6, knowledge in Database Administration & Computer programming an advantage, Windows Operating System (1998 NT / 2000 Professional). Proven ability to work with a team/ long hours and can work under pressure.

❖ WEB DEVELOPERS ❖

Male, not more than 27 y/o, must be a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Comp. Scie. / Comp. Eng'g. With 2-3 years in-depth experience in web development using Microsoft Technologies: ASP, IIS, VB Script: Access, SQL Server, Visual Interdev/Ultradev. Strong knowledge in HTML and JAVA Script Hardcoding as well as Cross-browser Development. Proven ability to work with a team/ long hours and can work under pressure.

❖ ENCODER ❖

Graduate of any 4-year course, with background in Accounting. With typing speed of 45-50 wpm. Can work with minimum supervision. Must be willing to work overtime.

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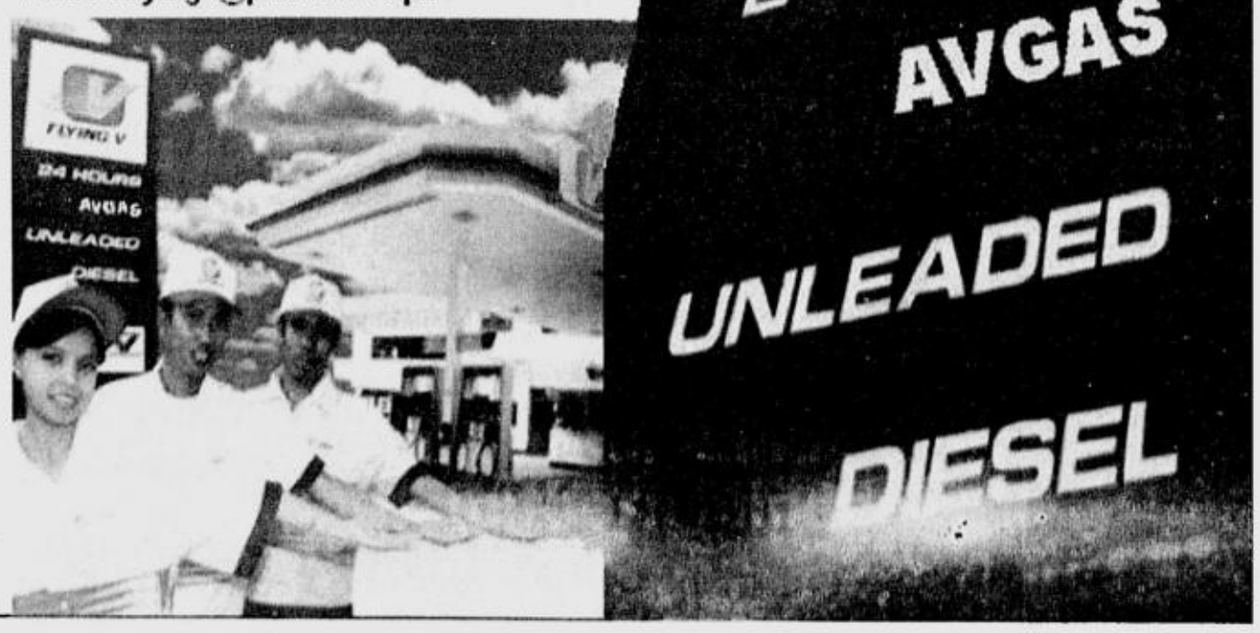

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- Experienced in video editing for E Job item.
- Graduates of Bachelor of Law for F Job item;
- Knowledge of French Language is an Advantage;
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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for:

I - One (1) year contract (January - December 2002) for the following:

a) Building Maintenance
b) Pest Control Services
c) Laundry Services
d) Supply of X-ray Films
e) Janitorial Services
f) Security Services
g) Supply of Med. Liquid Oxygen and Gases

II - Six (6) months (January - June 2002) contract for Pharma, Med./ Lab. and Foodstuffs Supplies.

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. SEC Registration
3. Business License
4. License to Operate (BFAD)
5. Financial Statement (last 2 years)
6. ITR (last 2 years)
7. DOH Accreditation
8. Location Map of Office
9. List of Clients

Additional requirements, please call purchasing division at 922-0574 c/o Noemi.

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before **October 15, 2001** at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Sept. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 & 30, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
POLICE REGIONAL OFFICE 3
Camp Olivas, City of San Fernando, Pampanga

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Philippine National Police (PNP) invites authorized distributors/dealers to participate for bidding of the Assorted Clothing Supplies for the use of 217 PNP PRO3 Recruits.

The schedule of pre-qualification bid conference and evaluation will be on **October 5, 2001** at exactly 9:00 a.m. at PRO3 Conference Room, Camp Olivas, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

PNP PRO3 reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any formality of the bids received.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO M. DOROMAL**
Police Senior Superintendent, DSC
Deputy Regional Director for Operations/ Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Sept. 30, Oct. 1 & 2, 2001)

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COFFEE GROUNDS DRYER - VERNON 27 Rotary Dryer 6000kg/hr Raw Ground at 87% MC; 1350 kg/hr Dry Ground at 50 5MC w/ Solid Fuel Heater & WEISHAUPT Oil Burner
CAN MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT - KRUPP LX2/LL & LX2/ZA Bodymakers, DBST Horizontal Die Flangers; ANGELUS 60L Seamer; KRUPP SH11 60Z Hydraulic Lifter, SSAV 602 Auto Feeder (1993), SP+ Scroll Shear; (2) KARGES HAMMER 8250/M250 Presses; CEVOLANI MTD 438 602 Liner; MOUNTAIN GATE EDSXS-209 602 Oven; OBERBURG Auto Assembly Machine; (2) KRUPP Pak Auto Press w/ Curler; KARGES HAMMER HA Auto Press w/ Curler; (2) KARGES HAMMER AGR-100 Liner; KRUPP SSAV 73mm Dia Scroll Shear; WR GRACE 73mm Dia Liner & Dryer; BRONZONI - LEVATI Empty Can Depalletizer; WORTLEY RPT 1894 Empty Can Palletizer/Depalletizer; UNICAN 1402 Empty Can Palletizer/Depalletizer; (2) UNICAN 602 Empty Can Palletizer/Depalletizer, etc.
CAN STERILIZATION - FMC Rotary 14oz Sterilizer w/ Pre-heater, Cooker, Coolers 240/hr Cap.; FMC Rotary 14oz Can Sterilizer w/ Pre-heater, Cooker, Cooler 300/hr Cap.; FMC Rotary 6oz Can Sterilizer w/ Pre-heater Cooker, Cooler 300/hr Cap.; FMC Rotary 6oz Can Sterilizer w/ Recently Acquired Pre-heater, Cooker, Cooler 300/hr Cap.
COCOA EQUIPMENT - Cocoa Triple Mill; Cocoa Press
PACKAGING MACHINERY - MEYPACK VP-401 Auto Case Packer S/N-4.6.01.001.261/94
MACHINE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT - MAZAK QT 10N CNC Slant Bed Lathe w/ MAZTROL CAMT-3 Controls; HARRISON, GALLIC, EMCO, CELTIC Straight Bed Lathes; VIKING Universal Mill; AMADA, JAEPA Bandsaws; ENMM Cylindrical Grinder; JONES & SHIPMAN Universal Cylindrical Grinder; CLARKSON Tool & Cutter Grinder; NAGASE / NORMALIES Surface Grinders; DAIDEN Spot Welder; A Qty. of Cutting Tools
INSPECTION EQUIPMENT - MAHR CV200 Conturograph; ALBERT GNEHM G100A Hardness Tester
LABORATORY - HERAEUS Heating Plate; (2) HERAEUS Furnaces; ELECTROTHERMAT 243 Heating Mantle; PROBAT Coffee Roaster; (8) HERAEUS Ovens; PHILIPS PH Meter; METTLER Electronic Balance
POWER PLANT - NIIGATA 1240 x 4MW Base Load Diesel Generator w/ Exciter, Turbochargers Governor, Lube Oil System, Fuel Systems, Cooling Systems, etc.
STEAM - TAMPELLA KEELER DS30 12T/hr Cap. Steam Boiler (1991); WEBER 20 DZR/ 14000 AW/VF Dual Fuel 14T/hr Cap. Steam Boiler (1985) w/ all ancillary equipment
WATER TREATMENT EQUIPMENT Incl. - Raw Water Storage, Sodium Hydrochloride, Hydrochloric Acid & Caustic Soda Tanks, Water Softening Equipment, Cooling Towers, Pressure & Recirculation Pumps, etc.
WASTE WATER TREATMENT Incl. - Transfer Pumps, Clarifiers & Equalizing Tanks, etc.
REFRIGERATION PLANT - (3) YORK 40T Cap. Chillers; CARRIER 525KW Chiller; (3) ALFA-LAVAL Arc 275 Chillers; IMECO XLRM 220 Evaporative Condenser; STALL Ammonia Compressor; Chilled Water Pumps & Tanks; Recirculation Pumps; Condensers, etc.
COMPRESSED AIR - (2) ATLAS COPCO GA609, Enclosed Compressors
AIR CONDITIONING - TRANE 35T Cap. Air Handling Unit; MACORTIZ 7.5T Cap. Air Handling Unit
MATERIALS HANDLING - NIPPON 5T Cap. 15m Span Overhead Traveling Crane; (2) TOYOTA 2.5T Cap. Forklifts; Asstd. Hand Pallet Trucks, etc.
MISCELLANEOUS - A Large Qty. Of Stainless Steel Agitating Tanks, Storage Tanks, Vacuum Vessels, Vibratory Screens; A Large Qty. Of Stainless Steel Valves, Flanges, Pneumatic Valves; A Large Qty. Of Stainless Steel / C.I. Pipe; A Large Qty. Of Miscellaneous Electrical Components Incl.- Breakers, Controllers, Power Supplies, Transformers, Safety Switches, Asstd. Lights; A Large Qty. Of Heavy Duty Electric Cable; A Large Qty. Of Electric Motors to 200hp Cap.; Office Furniture, etc.

AT: NESTLE PHILIPPINES INC.
NATIONAL ROAD, ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
ON: WEDNESDAY 3RD & THURSDAY 4TH OCTOBER - 10:30AM PROMPT
ON VIEW: MONDAY 1ST & TUESDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2001, 9:00AM - 5:00PM & MORNING OF SALE DAYS
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php100,000.00 (Upon Registration)

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Take the first step in becoming a TOTAL dealer by attending an orientation on **5 October 2001,10:00 AM, at the 24th floor, Urban Bank Plaza, Don Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo Street) corner Sen. Gil Puyat (formerly Buendia) Avenue**. Please bring copies of the following: Letter of Intent, vicinity and location map of your property, and Transfer Certificate of Title.

For inquiries and attendance confirmation please call Cheen De Mesa at (02)8490701 or Aileen Sangil-Espinosa at (02)8490719, or e-mail a Totalretail@totalfinaelf.com.

TOTAL
IT'S OUR NATURE TO CARE.

AME consumer behavior confab

SOME of the most recognized local and multinational firms have signed up for the "Strategic Marketing Conference on Consumer Behavior" slated Oct. 4 and 5 at the AIM Conference Center. Jollibee, Novartis, AC Nielsen, Sun Life of Canada, San Miguel Corp. Packaging Products, Goldilocks, Malayan Insurance, Sanofi-Synthelabo, Ever Corp., Viva Video, PLDT, and Sanyo have signed up for the conference which is organized by the Association of Marketing Educators (AME) in cooperation with Mansmith and Fielders. The theme for this year's conference is "Marketing Models for Cost Effective Decision Making" which covers key considerations from the time a product or service is being developed until the time it is released in retail stores with the appropriate advertising support. For more information on the Strategic Marketing Conference on Consumer Behavior, call 893-6459 and 892-3261.

Biggest cosmetics fair at Riverbanks Centre

THE CHAMBER of Cosmetics Industry of the Philippines Inc. (CCIP) is holding a seven-day cosmetic fair and exhibit at the Riverbank Centre Mall in Marikina City from Sept. 26 to Oct. 3. Dubbed "Christmas in September," the fair is open to the public and will feature big discounts and new products from CCIP member-companies as well as seminars and demonstrations, business opportunities and raffle draws. Participating companies include Amway Philippines, KSL Corp., Eunice Inc., Avon Cosmetics, Refinette Cosmetic Industry, Wella Phils., Vibelle Manufacturing Corp., Sara Lee Phils., Leo-mers Corp. and Henkel Phils. The fair serves as the culminating activity of the CCIP's annual National Cosmetics Celebration for this year. For more information, call Mutya or Jun of the CCIP Secretariat at 928-2523 or 926-9346.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a prequalification of prospective bidders for the supply and delivery of the 145 units Laptop/Notebook with the following specifications:

Minimum Configuration:

Processor	:	Intel PIII 600 Mhz with SpeedStep Technology
Memory	:	64MB SDRAM
Hard Drive	:	6.0 Giga Bytes Upgradable to 20 Giga Bytes
Video RAM	:	4MB VRAM Upgradable to 32 MB
Modem	:	56 Kbps Modem 10.100 Ethernet PCMCIA Combo
Battery Life	:	3.0 hours
Battery Type	:	NiMH/Li-Ion
Weight	:	Maximum 3.0 kgs.
Warranty	:	3 years on-site support on all parts and labor
Carrying Case	:	Included

For prequalification purposes, interested suppliers are required to submit to the Disbursement Control Committee thru the Administrative Services Department, Room 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Streets, Malate, Manila, not later than October 12, 2001, photocopies of the following documents (original of Nos. 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes):

1) Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
2) 2000 Audited Financial Statement (Balance Sheet & Income Statement - Minimum working capital of P1.0 Million and a networth of P2.0 Million);
3) Y2000 Income Tax Return;
4) ISO Certificate or its equivalent;
5) Company history/profile and corporate structure;
6) Certification as to the number of years offering the unit;
7) Submission of two (2) original brochures for evaluation purposes; and
8) List of reference sites with at least one (1) year experience with the proposed unit (complete with contact name, address and telephone/fax numbers).

Only those who submit/comply with the above requirements and are prequalified by the Bank will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised to the prequalified suppliers.

The two-envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

For particulars, please contact the Manager I, Procurement Division III,Administrative Services Department, Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, 5-storey Building, Tel. Nos. 523-13-21.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

FOR THE DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE:
(Sgd.) EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS
Officer-In-Charge
Administrative Services Department

(PDI -- Sept. 30, 2001)

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BENEFITS:
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* Extensive Review Assistance for CGFNS, NCLEX, TOEFL, TSE, TWE, and Oral Interview

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:
Interested RN's must send the following:
* Comprehensive Resume (with four passport photos)
* Certified Copy of Transcipt of Records, Diploma, Certificates of Employment, Board Rating / Board Certificate, PRC ID, CGFNS Certificate, Birth Certificate and Marriage Contract (if married)
* Letters of Recommendation from previous and current employers

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Pampanga II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. 900-0689, 900-0474
Fax No. (045) 900-0092

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

PELCO II invites suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and if subsequently found qualified to bid for the SUPPLY and DELIVERY, and Construction of:

Package 010-2001:	DOE PROJECTS AT BACOLOR
Package 011-2001:	DOE PROJECTS AT PORAC
Package 012-2001:	DOE PROJECTS AT MABALACAT

The pre-qualification forms may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PELCO II Main Office, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga from **October 8-12, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00). Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 p.m. on **October 16, 2001**.

Pre-qualification meeting is scheduled on **October 17, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at Pelco II Main Building, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga.

Bidding will be announced later. For additional inquiries, please call the PBAC Secretariat at (045) 900-0474 or 900-0850.

(Sgd.) **ENER D. PANGAN**
Chairman
PELCO II - PBAC

(PDI - Sept. 30, Oct. 3 & 5, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) invites interested bidders to submit Application for Prequalification or Eligibility and subsequently to bid, if qualified for the hereunder project:

1. Name of Project	:	ASIA Development Project Phase III (Aviation Support Industrial Area)
2. Contract Budget	:	Php 9,175,997.92
3. Minimum Requirements	:	1. PCAB License Category : A General Building 2. IAC License Category : Medium B for Buildings 3. 5 years experience in construction of building

Forms for application for Prequalification/Eligibility may be secured from the Office of the Assistant General Manager for Operations, 2nd Floor, MIAA Administration Building, NAIA, Pasay City from **October 8-12, 2001** upon presentation of Letter of Intent. Deadline for the submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification/Eligibility Form shall be on **October 19, 2001**.

Official Bid Documents will be issued only to pre-qualified contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) for the project. The time and date of the submission and opening of bids, pre-bid conference/s and other affairs concerning the project shall be announced and confirmed in the Notice of Pre-qualification.

The MIAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids duly received, waive any minor defect in the proposals, accept the offer that will be evaluated to be the most advantageous to the Authority nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. JOSE N. GO, JR.**
Chairman, BAC-1

(PDI - Sept. 30, Oct. 3 & 7, 2001)

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO BID

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES, a division of the Philippine Tourism Authority is inviting interested buyers to bid for the sale of the following unserviceable properties situated at FTI Warehouse, **FTI Compound, CRB Road, Taguig, Metro Manila on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS BASIS."**

One (1) lot Computer and Peripherals
One (1) lot Office/Store Furnitures, Fixtures and Equipment

All interested parties may secure Pre-qualification form for a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** from **October 1** to **4, 2001** from the **Purchasing Department**, Duty Free Philippines, Fiesta Mall, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Parañaque City.

Submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification forms will be until October 10, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. A pre-bidding conference and site inspection for all qualified contractors will be announced later.

Bidders will be required to post a bid bond equivalent to **ten percent (10%)** of the total contract price in the form of **Cash, Manager's Check** or **Cashier's Check.**

Duty Free Philippines reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refused to accept his award. Further, DFP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JOEL R. PEREZ**
CHAIRMAN
Disposal Committee

(PDI – Sept. 29, 30 & Oct. 1, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. EMA-MC-01338-A

TO : **ALL OFFICIALS and EMPLOYEES** This Office
DATE : 30 August 2001
SUBJECT : **AMENDED IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. BGC-AO-001 Re: Rules and Regulations in the Implementation of the Drug Testing of Applicants for Driver's License**

SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

These guidelines are issued to govern the application for professional and non-professional driver's licenses so as to promote safe and efficient transportation and to curb alcohol or drug-related vehicular accidents.

SECTION II. DEFINITION OF TERMS

a. **Dangerous Drugs or Drugs** - refer to prohibited and regulated drugs as defined in Section 2, Article I of Republic Act No. 6425, otherwise known as "The Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972", and shall include controlled substances principally Methamphetamine (shabu) and Cannabinoids (marijuana).
b. **Drug Test** - any chemical, biological or physical instrument analysis administered by a laboratory for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of a drug, principally methamphetamine and cannabinoids or its metabolite.
   b1. **Screening Test** - refers to immunoassay test to eliminate "negative" specimen, i.e., one without the presence of drugs, from further consideration and to identify the presumptively "positive" specimen that requires confirmation or further testing.
   b2. **Confirmatory Test** - refers to the second or further analytical procedure to identify the presence of drugs in specimen.
   b3. **Quantitative Test** - refers to an examination to determine the level or concentration of drugs in the body.
c. **Methamphetamine (shabu)** - are synthetic amphetamines or stimulants that are produced and sold illegally in pill form, capsules, powder and chunks. Two such methamphetamine are chunks and ice.
d. **Cannabinoids (marijuana)** - a hemp-like plant whose leaves are smoked in cigarettes as a narcotic.
e. **LTO** - Land Transportation Office.
f. **NCR** - National Capital Region.
g. **Application Fee** - shall mean the amount to be collected upon filing an application for accreditation.
h. **License** - authority issued by DDB for a laboratory to conduct or perform competent screening test, confirmatory test, and quantitative examination of dangerous drugs in body fluids.
i. **LTO Certificate of Accreditation** - shall mean the authority granted by the **Accreditation Board** to a Drug Testing Laboratory for it to be able to transact business relative to drug testing.
j. **Accreditation Board** - the body chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications that is tasked to review and approve/disapprove all applications for accreditation of drug testing laboratories.
k. **DDB** - Dangerous Drugs Board.
l. **Chain of Custody** - refers to the procedure established by the testing laboratory for the handling of specimens to ensure that the integrity of the sample identification is maintained. It accounts for the integrity of each specimen by tracking its handling and storage, from specimen collection to its final disposition.
m. **Laboratory/Drug Testing Center** - refers to a private or a government agency involved in the testing of a specimen to determine the presence of dangerous drugs on the applicant for driver's license. It may include DDB - licensed government hospitals accredited by the LTO.
n. **Laboratory Manager** - refers to the head of a laboratory and must be a licensed chemist, medical technologist, pharmacist or chemical engineer and who possesses the necessary experience or training on the procedures used in the laboratory.

SECTION III. ACCREDITATION OF DRUG TESTING LABORATORIES

A. Classification of Drug Testing Laboratories

The LTO shall adopt the laboratory classification of the DDB, PNP and NBI as follows:

1. **Class A Laboratories** - those that are capable of conducting screening and confirmatory tests as well as quantitative examinations of specimens.
2. **Class B Laboratories** - those that are capable of performing screening and confirmatory tests.
3. **Class C Laboratories** - those that are capable of conducting screening test.

Participants to the LTO Drug Testing Program shall establish and put up drug screening centers nationwide.

To assure that far flung areas are served by the Drug Testing Laboratories, the Assistant Secretary, LTO upon recommendation of the Regional Directors concerned, may adopt measures to address this contingency on a case to case basis.

B. Procedure

In applying for accreditation as drug testing laboratory, the following procedures shall be adopted:

1. **A DDB** - licensed Class C Laboratory may apply for accreditation provided it has formally established a tie-up with the private Class A or Class B laboratory. The applicant shall submit a duly accomplished application form together with the documentary requirements, hereinafter set forth, to the LTO Committee on Accreditation of Drug Testing Laboratories.

   Upon filing of the application of accreditation, an application fee shall be collected.

   In case of NCR, an application shall be filed with the Medical Unit, LTO Central Office, East Avenue, Quezon City, for evaluation, inspection and recommendation to the LTO Committee on Accreditation. For other regions, the application shall be filed with the LTO Regional Office where the concerned drug testing laboratory intends to operate. Thereafter, the Regional Office shall conduct ocular inspection of the laboratory and evaluate the supporting documents in accordance with DDB and LTO's requirements and thereafter submit its recommendation to the LTO Committee on Accreditation.
2. The LTO Central Office Committee on Accreditation of Drug Testing Laboratories shall:
   2.1 Evaluate the application, conduct ocular inspection of the laboratory facilities and equipment and recommend approval or disapproval of the application to the Accreditation Board, thru the LTO Assistant Secretary.
   2.2 See to it that the drug testing laboratories operate at all times in accordance with the terms and conditions of the accreditations.
   2.3 Provide proper interpretation of any given and specific requirement that shall govern the operation of the laboratory.
   2.4 Conduct surprise/periodic inspections on the accredited drug testing laboratories to ensure effectiveness and to identify and recommend to the Assitant Secretary the closure of and/or imposition of sanction against any Drug Testing Center which is accredited or not accredited, and was found to have violated these rules and regulations.
   2.5 Furnish all LTO Regional Offices with an updated list of LTO Accredited Laboratories.
   2.6 Require all Accredited Drug Testing Centers to display in a conspicuous place in the laboratory the following:
      2.6.1 DDB License to operate
      2.6.2 LTO Certificate of Accreditation, which is valid only in the place for which it is issued
      2.6.3 Table of organization and photographs of personnel
      2.6.4 PRC license of the laboratory manager
      2.6.5 Mayor's Permit
   2.7 Require that the name of the drug screening laboratory that conducted the test to appear in the official receipt of the driver's license.
   2.8 Require the submission of monthly report from the LTO and Drug Testing Centers and direct the review and reconciliation of their records
   2.9 Perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the Assistant Secretary, LTO
3. The Assistant Secretary, after finding the application satisfactory, and upon recommendation of the LTO Central Office Committee on Accreditation of Drug Testing Laboratories, shall forward the said application to the **Accreditation Board** for final review and approval/disapproval. In case of approval, an accreditation fee shall be collected from the applicant as hereinafter set forth.

SECTION IV. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

A. New or Initial Application for Accreditation

The following documents shall be submitted upon filing of initial application for accreditation.

1. Authenticated copy of certificate of current license to operate issued by the DDB, duly signed by the Executive Director
2. Certification from the DDB licensing committee authorizing the laboratory manager to conduct drug testing.
3. License of the laboratory manager from the Professional Regulation Commission as Chemist, Medical Technologist, Pharmacist or Chemical Engineer
4. Certificate of training of the licensed Chemist, Medical Technologist, Pharmacist and Chemical Engineer provided by the company that supplied the drug testing machine, if applicable.
5. Samples of Chain of Custody forms and procedures used by the accredited drug laboratory.
6. Certificate of Business Name Registration from the Department of Trade and Industry, if single proprietorship.
7. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Certificate of Registration and Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, if corporation or partnership.
8. Valid and current Mayor's permit.
9. Tax Identification Number (TIN) from the Bureau of Internal Revenue
10. Latest Income Tax Return.
11. Certificate of membership of the laboratory and its employees with the Social Security System
12. Specimen signatures of accredited laboratory managers, such as: Medical Technologist, Chemist, Pharmacist and Chemical Engineer.
13. Schematic floor plan of the laboratory, indicating the size and location of the drug testing laboratory per DDB standards and actual photo of the physical facilities and premises.
14. Authenticated copy of the letter from DDB stating that the Chemist of either a Class A or Class B drug testing laboratory has successfully passed a series of performance tests given by the DDB.
15. A notarized warranty that a confirmatory laboratory can deliver confirmatory results within twenty-four (24) hours for Metro Manila and within seventy-two (72) hours for the provincial areas.
16. Notarized documents or confirmatory tie-up of Class C laboratory with Class A or B Laboratory

B. Renewal of Application for Accreditation

Drug Testing Laboratories that are renewing application for accreditation shall submit the updated documentary requirements stated in Section IV – A hereof, together with other documents which the LTO Accreditation Committee may thereafter require.

SECTION V. ACCREDITATION BOARD

An Accreditation Board to ensure the proper accreditation of drug testing laboratories is hereby created by the DOTC composed of the Secretary, DOTC as Chairman, Assistant Secretary, Land Transportation Office as Vice-Chairman and the Assistant Secretary for Planning, DOTC and the Executive Director, Dangerous Drugs Board as members.

The Accreditation Board shall be assisted by a Secretariat, the composition/membership of which shall be determined by the Board.

SECTION VI. REPORTING SYSTEM

1. All accredited laboratory owners/managers shall submit a Monthly Report to the LTO Central Office Accreditation Committee and Regional Offices concerned on the results of all drug tests conducted by them in a prescribed form.
2. All accredited drug testing laboratories shall be connected on-line with the LTO-Information Technology System.

SECTION VII. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

1. Test results shall be printed individually in an official form, sealed and signed by the laboratory manager.
2. All positive results shall be submitted to LTO and shall contain final findings done by a confirmatory laboratory. An applicant confirmed to be positive for drugs may request that the same urine sample be sent to DDB or a Class A private laboratory for further validation testing – the result thereof shall be submitted to LTO within fifteen (15) days after collection of sample.
3. As confirmed by the Class A Confirmatory Laboratory or the DDB, the concerned DDB-accredited physician may subject an individual found positive for drugs to a clinical evaluation as basis for appropriate disposition.

SECTION VIII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. Drivers applying for professional driver's license and tested positive for abuse of drugs shall automatically be subjected to Confirmatory Testing using the same urine specimen.
2. A driver who gets involved in serious traffic accident shall be immediately subjected to drug test. If such driver is a holder of Professional driver's license, and he is found positive for use of prohibited drugs, his driver's license will be immediately suspended for a period of five (5) years. For a Non-Professional driver's license holder who gets involved in a similar serious accident and who is found positive for use of prohibited drugs by an accredited drug testing center, his license will be immediately suspended for three (3) years.

SECTION IX. FEES

A Filing Fee in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P1,500.00)** shall be collected upon filing an application for accreditation, and an Accreditation Fee in the amount **of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00)**, shall be collected from each applicant for accreditation as Class A, B or C Drug Testing Laboratory.

SECTION X. VALIDITY OF ACCREDITATION PERMIT

The Accreditation permit approved and granted by the Accreditation Board shall be valid for one (1) year starting January 1 to December 31 of any given year, provided, however, that any original permit issued during any period shall be valid only up to December 31 of any such given year it is granted. Permits shall be renewed on or before the last working day of the year it was granted. The permit as renewed shall be valid for the next succeeding year.

SECTION XI. PENAL PROVISIONS

A. A drug testing laboratory shall, after hearing, be penalized with a fine in the amount **of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00)** for the first offense, a fine in the amount of **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00)** for the second offense, and **THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P300,000.00)** for the third offense, for any of, but not limited to, the following violations:
   1. Submission of anomalous certificate of test result/reports.
   2. Non-compliance with the standard requirements herein provided and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations.
   3. Misrepresentation in the filing of the application for accreditation.
   4. Involvement in illegal operations.

B. Failure of the drug testing laboratory to pay the fine as aforementioned shall result in the forfeiture of its performance bond and cancellation of its accreditation permit.

C. The LTO Accreditation Committee is empowered to conduct a hearing of the violation committed and to promulgate the rules of procedure to govern the conduct thereof.

SECTION XII. PERFORMANCE BOND

Every drug testing laboratory duly accredited shall post a bond in the amount **of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00)** in cash or **FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00)** in the form of GSIS surety bond (callable on demand), at the option of the concerned laboratory, to guarantee proper performance of its obligations and responsibilities under these guidelines and other laws, rules and regulations pertinent thereto.

For guidance and strict compliance.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO M. ABENINA**
Gen AFP (Ret.)
Assistant Secretary

APPROVED:

(Sgd.) **PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ**
Secretary

(PDI – Sept. 30, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO
Province of Maguindanao
MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN KUDARAT
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY TO BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the ADB for the Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP) and the Municipality of Sultan Kudarat, Province of Maguindanao, is one of the 140 ARCs identified by DAR-ADB-ARCDP.

The Municipal Government of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, a local partner of the DAR-ADB-ARCDP, invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Proposed Improvement/Concreting of Alamada-Panatan Road, located at Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao in accordance with the hereunder work packages.

Description of Project: **PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT/CONCRETING OF ALAMADA-PANATAN ROAD**

Major Items of Work Quantity/Unit	Quantity
1. Clearing and Grubbing	12,540.00 sq.m.
2. Roadway Excavation	7,661.00 cu.m.
3. Pipe Culvert and Drain Excavation	125.00 cu.m.
4. Embankment	221.00 cu.m.
5. Sub-grade Preparation	17,400.00 cu.m.
6. Aggregate Sub-base Coarse	1,740.00 cu.m.
7. Aggregate Base Coarse	1,740.00 cu.m.
8. PCCP	1,741.00 cu.m.
9. Pipe Culvert	40.00 pieces

Bidding Date: **OCTOBER 24, 2001 at Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao Municipal Hall**
No. of Calendar Days to complete: **126 working days**
Total length of project: **2,900 meters**

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders at above office starting **September 26, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) per package. Pre-bid conference will be held on **October 22, 2001** at Sultan Kudarat Municipal Hall.

All bids must be accompanied by a corresponding security bid bond in a form of Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, and Bank Draft of an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency and must be delivered to the Municipal Government of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao on or before bidding date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bidding dates in the presence of participating bidder or representative who chose to attend.

The PBAC-SK, Maguindanao, ARMM reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bidder.

(Sgd.) **DATU TUCAO O. MASTURA, CPA**
Municipal Mayor

(PDI – Sept. 29 & 30, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (COBAC)

September 19, 2001

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The Department of Health thru the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category of "AAA" and registration of "Large B" for Building and Industrial Plant for the project construction of NCPDHP and BPS Building Phase II located at RITM, Alabang, Muntinlupa, Metro Manila.

The dates to be followed are:

1. Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractor's License and Issuance of Eligibility Documents		**October 8, 2001**
2. Submission of duly accomplished Eligibility Documents		**October 12, 2001**
3. Posting of eligible contractors		**October 17, 2001**
4. Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents		**October 18-19, 2001**
5. Pre-bid Conference	10:00 AM	**November 15, 2001**
6. Submission and Bids (Deadline)	10:00 AM	**December 18, 2001**
7. Opening of Bids	10:00 AM	**December 18, 2001**

All of the above activities shall be held at the Office of the COBAC Chairman, Ground Floor, Building No. 3, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TEN THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P10,000.00).

COBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by COBAC is the most advantageous to the Government. COBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred. In the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

(Sgd.) **ASEC. ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D.**
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI – Sept. 27, 30 & Oct. 5, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)
SOUTHERN LUZON REGIONAL CENTER

September 26, 2001

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Power Corporation, TRANSCO-South Luzon invites interested licensed and/or accredited suppliers/contractors in the pre-qualification and bidding for the supply of all labor, materials, supplies, tools, equipment, supervision and undertakings necessary for the **Slope Protection of Tower Nos. 40 and 47 along Calaca-Dasma 230 Kv/TL located at Laurel, Batangas.**

This invitation is open to duly registered contractors with the following classification:

PCAB License - General Building
IAC/CIAP Registration - Building & Industrial Plant, "Small B" (Power Transmission & Distribution)

Pre-qualification documents are available for issuance to prospective bidders starting **September 21, 2001 up to October 5, 2001 at Contracts Management Office, TRANSCO-Southern Luzon Region, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Six Hundred Pesos (Php600.00) only. Schedule of availability of Bid Documents and Bid Opening Date shall be notified to Prequalified Bidders at a later date.

NPC reserves the right to reject any application for eligibility or bid without offering any reason/s, to waive any formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information relative hereto shall be furnished upon official request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned, c/o Contracts Management Office, TRANSCO-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, Telefax No. 520-8213.

(Sgd.) **RENE D. RAMAS**
Manager, Administration, TRANSCO-SL
and Chairman
Regional Contracts Award Committee

(PDI – Sept. 30, 2001)

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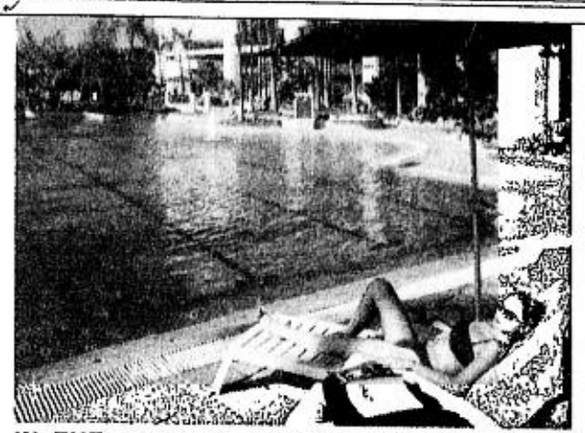
MosCom Management

THE SINULOG ballroom can accommodate 550 to 600 guests for various functions.

MA-YI (a pre-Hispanic name attributed to Cebu)—the club's fine-dining restaurant that features Euro-Asian cuisine.



IN THE middle of the Cebu City Club sits a swimming pool for adults and a wading pool for children.

THE CITY Sports Club Cebu is light and airy, exuding a warm feeling of being right at home.

A place to relax, wine and dine for ₱800,000

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CEBU CITY—Executives, entrepreneurs and guests from Manila who were invited to witness the opening of the exclusive City Sports Club Cebu last week could not help but feel envious of the Cebuanos because there is not one quite like it in Metro Manila.

At the heart of the Cebu Business Park, the 14,500-square-meter property boasts of world-class facilities designed to provide members with a place to unwind with their families, right in the middle of the city.

The club is a joint venture project of Ayala Land Inc. and Cebu Holdings Inc. Its facilities cater to the members' different needs for sports, recreation, health and fitness, as well as a ballroom, meeting areas and restaurants.

Its sports and recreation facilities include an indoor and outdoor tennis court, multi-purpose indoor court for basketball and volleyball, swimming pool with competitive lanes, children's and wading pools, 12-lane bowling alley, as well as areas for billiards, darts, table tennis and even mahjong.

THE 12-LANE, glow-in-the-dark bowling alley is one of the main attractions of the sports club.

Health and fitness buffs can also take part in aerobics and martial arts classes, use the fitness gym, or get a massage and a spa treatment.

Many of these facilities were brought in from the United States, Japan, Great Britain, France, Germany and Malaysia. The frames that adorn the walls, on the other hand, were from the collections of Ayala patriarch Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala.

Food and beverage outlets include the Verandah Café overlooking the pool, snack bar, the Ma-Yi fine dining restaurant and the Hama sports bar.

Completing the list of facilities are the play area, beauty salon and barber shop, business center, boardroom, clinic, video game room, Internet café and a souvenir/pro shop.

Another special feature of the City Club is the use of a solar water heater capable of producing 5,000 liters of hot water a day. This energy efficiency project is the largest solar heating project in the country and was recently cited by the International Institute for Energy Conservation.

Cebu Holdings president Rene Almendras said the club was envisioned to be Cebu's premier sports club, and enhances the image of the Cebu Business Park as an integrated, mixed-use and self-sufficient center.

The City Club was also envisioned to be an architectural landmark in the Cebu skyline. Looking at it from the outside, however, can be deceiving because the structure is only three stories tall, with a brick tile roof.

THE HAMABAR—perfect for a quiet nightcap or a drink or two with friends.

R Payumo, lead architect of the City Club, said their group wanted the club to feel airy, relaxed and inviting so that members would be enticed to use the facilities. To do this, they had to install most of the facilities underground, so that the structure from the outside would look like a country club.

"The operative word was to make the City Club an oasis in the middle of all the buildings in the business park, so we made it low-rise and we put in a lot of landscaping," Payumo explained.

The City Club is a members-only club. Ayala Land and Cebu Holdings started selling the shares as early as February 1999 and the shares are available until 2002. These shares are sold for between P781,000 and P1.35 million for corporate members.

Nature provides niche in Australian tourism (From page B14)

vices of a professional guide. In addition, marketing and promotions constitute an ongoing investment, she said.

As for the return on investment, Hocking noted that tour operators are generally coy about giving figures. They will only say, they wouldn't be in the business if it didn't bring a good return and, "more importantly, a good quality of life."

Some nature tourism operators have been around for a long time and have learned to feel the pulse of the market, while at least one, Earth Sanctuaries, is even listed on the stock exchange.

Bush walking and visiting a national or state park are the most popular nature tours, along with bird watching and "getting up close and personal" with nature. The vast, unspoiled land lends itself to four-wheel driving, biking, boating, fishing, diving and, for the more adventurous, exploring the Outback.

Among the popular destinations/attractions are Kangaroo Island, where visitors can see wildlife in its natural habitat, and the Flinders Ranges, with its rugged mountains, deep red gorges, awesome red sand dunes and aboriginal sites. At Victor Harbor in the Fleurieu Peninsula, visitors can take the horse-drawn tram to nearby Granite Island and observe penguins returning to their burrows in the evening after a day of fishing.

"Taking a backwater dinghy tour down the Murray River is also quite an experience, an opportunity to learn about the river and its environs while enjoying billy tea, damper bread and homemade biscuits," Hocking suggested.

Also among the top destinations is the Coorong River and its 47-hectare coastal national conservation park, which hosts major migratory bird populations and the largest pelican breeding colony. This is where IYE2002 will be launched.

"I think South Australia's competitive edge is our 'accessible nature.' We have the infrastructure in place for visitors to get close to the wildlife without having a negative impact on it," said Hocking.

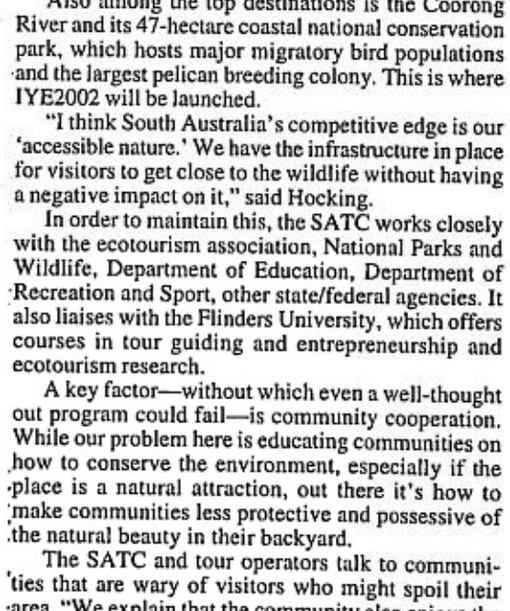
In order to maintain this, the SATC works closely with the ecotourism association, National Parks and Wildlife, Department of Education, Department of Recreation and Sport, other state/federal agencies. It also liaises with the Flinders University, which offers courses in tour guiding and entrepreneurship and ecotourism research.

A key factor—without which even a well-thought out program could fail—is community cooperation. While our problem here is educating communities on how to conserve the environment, especially if the place is a natural attraction, out there it's how to make communities less protective and possessive of the natural beauty in their backyard.

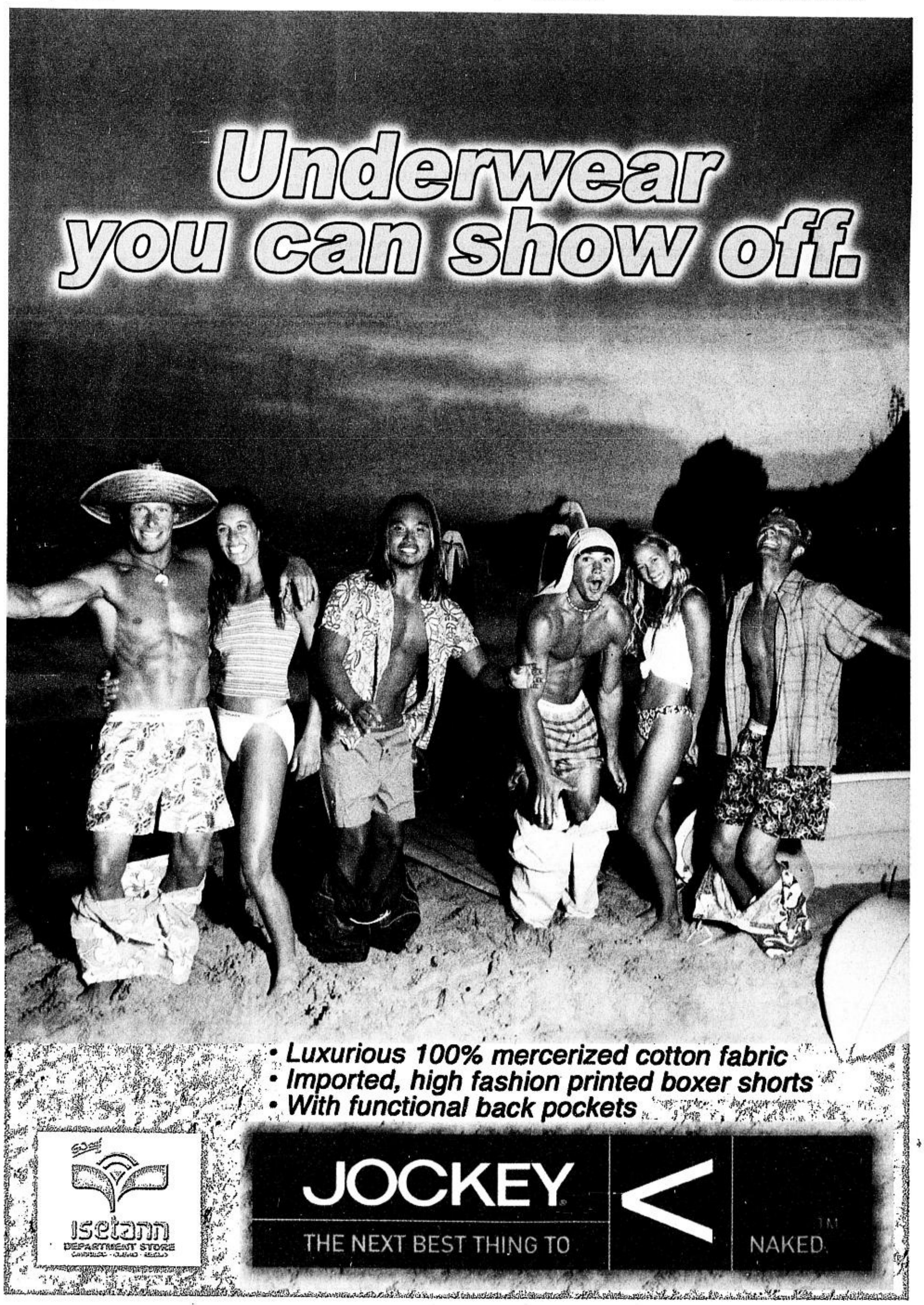
The SATC and tour operators talk to communities that are wary of visitors who might spoil their area. "We explain that the community also enjoys the benefits visitors provide," said Hocking, who intimated that she became a "greenie" after meeting a 94-year-old bird watcher who traveled all the way from Germany to see an endangered species of cockatoo, only to find out he was given the wrong information back home.

Asked what Philippine tour operators could learn from their South Australian counterparts, Hocking said: "Make sure you have professional people running professional tours, and that the interpretation is both entertaining and accurate. Both the guide and the visitor should have fun."

Conserving nature for future generations to experience requires a state (or national) approach, she stressed. "Visitors will come and go, invited or not. We, as a state, are making sure that when they come, they have an enjoyable experience without harming a fragile environment."



PROFESSIONAL people should run tours.



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MARY WANG CHI YAP

January 23, 1920 -- September 29, 2001
Died in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 81.

Her late husband, **Bian Bian Yap;** brother **John Ong;** children **Benjamin** and **Virginia, Zenaida;** grandchildren **Andre Sebastian, Pamela Frances, Michael Aaron;** great grandson **Kahlil;** sister-in-law, nephew, nieces, other relatives and friends, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City. Holy Mass is celebrated nightly at 8:00 p.m.

Cremation services will be held at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, immediately after the 8:30 a.m. Funeral Mass on Wednesday, October 3, 2001.

In lieu of flowers, we would appreciate donations to the Center for Family Ministries Foundation (CEFAM), Ateneo de Manila University, to support outreach programs aimed at strengthening the Filipino Family.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED:

PAZ LOMADA LASCANO

Widow of the late Collector PEDRO C. LASCANO,
peacefully joined our Lord on September 25, 2001 at the age of 86 in San Diego, California, U.S.A.

Her bereaved children, **LUZ CABRERA** (widow of Isolde); **LEILA & ALFREDO DAMASCO; SISTER LYDIA LASCANO, ICM; LOURDES & VIRGILIO PORTICOS; MARTE & RAQUEL LASCANO; LEONORE QUEMADA** (widow or Eli); **MARIO & CORAZON LASCANO; LORNA & DANILO GAUCE;** her sister **PRESENTACION MARIANO;** her nephew **ARISTEO & EVANGELINE CASTILLO;** her sister-in-law **ISIDRA C. LASCANO;** her grandchildren and great grandchildren, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Humphrey Mortuary in San Diego, California and will be transferred to Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes in Davao City on Wednesday, October 3, 2001. She will be laid to rest on Saturday, October 6 at Davao Memorial Park, Davao City after the celebration of the Holy Mass.

Our Beloved Director

Pinky Torres Aliling

peacefully went home to our Creator
on September 26 at the age of 49..

An Evangelical Service will be held for her
on September 30, Sunday, 6:00 pm
at **Christ Commission Fellowship**
3/F, St. Francis Square, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

From her loving **graphic atelier** family,
who will miss her greatly..

John 5:24
"...whoever hears My word and believes in Him who sent me has eternal life... he has crossed over from death to life."

ROMANA "Nene" BATACLAN JAVIER

18 January 1925 -- 29 September 2001

Beloved husband, **Romeo (Bobby) Javier;** children **Cecille & Jack Hontiveros, Lulu & Leo Araullo, Larry & Grace Raya, Dodo & Paulette McCoy, Robbie & Marisel Jimenez;** grandchildren **Denise & Carlo Hontiveros; Mark, Toby & Michelle Araullo; Mike, Jay, Paolo & Sarah Javier; Hazel Javier; Nika, Kyle, Janic & Clarisse Javier;** sisters **Presentacion "Esen" Aristorenas, Fe Demandante.**

Sisters-in-law & brothers-in-law, nephews & nieces, relatives & friends mourn her passing and request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Nene's remains lie in state at the Benedictine Abbey Chapel at Alabang Hills Village.

The funeral Mass will be offered at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 2 October 2001.

Interment will take place at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

CRISTY R. HERNANDEZ

(December 30, 1922 -- September 13, 2001)

wish to thank all of you who condoled with us, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, offered Masses, prayers and novenas, and who, in countless other ways, provided strength and comfort in our moment of sorrow.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

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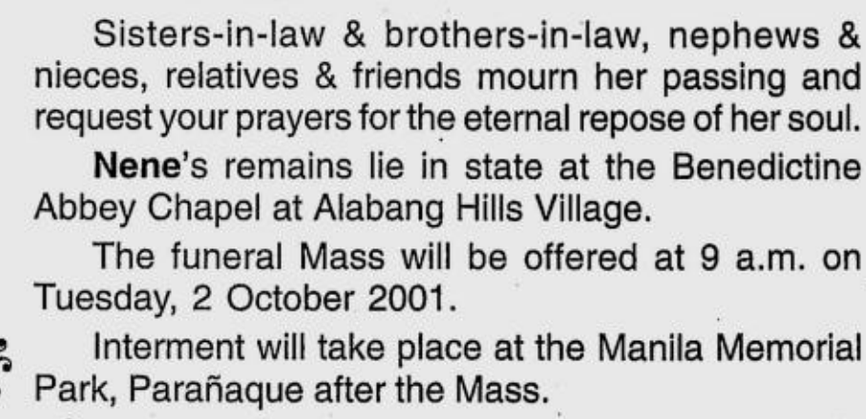

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

First Union opens new office in Cebu

FIRST UNION National Bank in Manila is pleased to announce the opening of an extension office in Cebu today, Oct. 1. This office will offer a variety of products and services and further emphasize First Union's commitment to the Philippines.

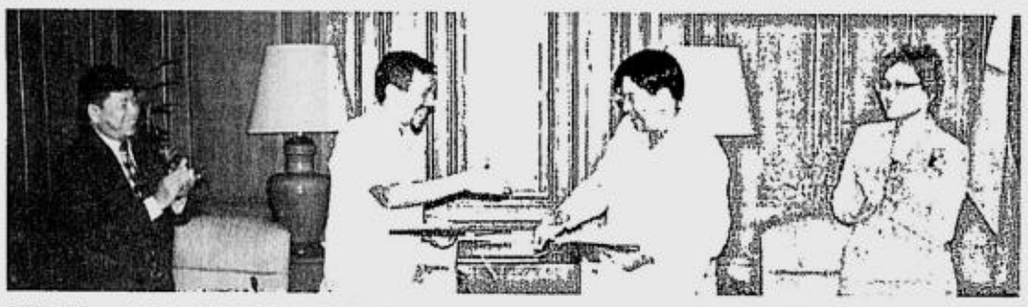
"The Philippines continues to be an important market for First Union. We've made a strategic decision to dedicate additional resources to the Philippines and to expand our presence there," said Michael Heavener, executive vice president and head of First Union's international division. "We'll be adding additional resources in both Manila and Cebu, which we believe is an increasingly important region for the country. Given my personal history in the Philippines. I'm particularly pleased about our new initiatives there."

First Union has had a presence in the Philippines since 1976, and has served the major banks throughout the country. Today, First Union works with all the major banks in the Philippines as well as foreign branches.

First Union's International Division has more than 3,000 correspondent bank relationships in over 130 countries. The division's global network encompasses 32 representative offices, five international processing centers located domestically, and six branches worldwide. In addition to correspondent banking, global trade services and trade services outsourcing. First Union also provides embassy banking and international corporate banking. First Union's International Division works with the company's Global Capital Markets, Global Capital Management and Global Cash Management divisions to service customers worldwide.

MSD RESOURCE CENTER NOW AT POC

Merck Sharp & Dohme Philippines (MSD) recently inaugurated its new MSD Resource Center (MRC) at the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC) in Quezon City. The POC-MSD Resource Center is the eighth MSD Resource Center in the Philippines. It is expected to assist the center's medical professionals in their research work by providing more access to medical information. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) Dr. Camilo V. Te, chair, resident training committee, POC; John Elton, vice president for sales and marketing MSD; Dr. Jesus Duenas, medical center chief II, POC; and Christine Liwanag, corporate communications and services director, MSD. For more information, call the customer service call center at 878-6338 or 1-800-1-888-6737.



MECO, BOI CREATE SPECIAL TEAM FOR TAIWANESE INVESTORS

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Gregory L. Domingo (second from left) and Ambassador Antonio I. Basilio (third from right), president and chief executive officer of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office, exchange copies of a memorandum of agreement which they recently signed. Under the MOA, a special team was created to provide services and assistance to Taiwanese investors in the Philippines. Taiwan is among the largest investors in the country. Witnessing the ceremony are Board of Investments (BOI) Governor Geronimo D. Sta. Ana (left), Isabel O. Golamco (right), Meco director and chief finance officer. According to data from the BOI, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Clark Development Corp., the total approved foreign direct investments by Taiwan reached P273.5 million as of the first quarter of 2001.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
National Forestation Development Office (NFDO)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) invites interested Contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility screening, and if found eligible, to bid for the following projects under the Forestry Sector Project being funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC):

Name of Project/Location/Scope and Description	Budgetary Cost/ Sources of Funding	PCAB Classification
1. Rehabilitation of Farm-to-Market Roads in the Mariveles Watershed Rehabilitation Subproject, Municipality of Mariveles, Bataan, Region 3 a. Brgy. Balon - Anito Section (3.8 km) Brgy. Biaan Section (3.4 km)	P 13,000,000.00 JBIC Loan: 11,500,000.00 GOP Fund: 1,500,000.00	At least Medium A for Road
2. Rehabilitation of Farm-to-Market Road in the Maasin Watershed Rehabilitation Subproject, Municipality of Maasin, Iloilo, Region 6 • Daja-Dagami Section (9.5 km)	P 18,800,000.00 JBIC Loan: 16,600,000.00 GOP Fund: 2,200,000.00	At least Medium B for Road
3. Rehabilitation of Farm-to-Market Road in the Sicopong Watershed Subproject, Bais City, Negros Oriental, Region 7 • Sitio Bandmill - Bais Tanjay Bdry Section (10 km)	P 14,000,000.00 JBIC Loan: 12,300,000.00 GOP Fund: 1,700,000.00	At least Medium A for Road
4. Rehabilitation of Farm-to-Market Road in Bayog Watershed Subproject, Municipality of Bayog, Zamboanga Del Sur, Region 9 a. Kahayagan, Supon, Kanipaan Section (6.8 km) b. Hanging Bridge: Rehabilitation 1 no. New Construction 1 no.	P 15,000,000.00 JBIC Loan: 13,200,000.00 GOP Fund: 1,800,000.00	At least Medium A for Road and Small B for Bridge
5. Rehabilitation of Farm-to-Market Road in the Pulangui Watershed Subproject, Municipalities of Valencia and San Fernando, Bukidnon, Region 10 a. Mawi-e Kauswagan Section (5.5 km) b. Halapitan-Kauswagan Section (5.9 km)	P 24,000,000.00 JBIC Loan: 21,200,000.00 GOP Fund: 2,800,000.00	At least Medium B for Road

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bidding, Evaluation of Bids and Award of Contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of P.D. 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended 12 August 2000 and other applicable rules and regulations.

Eligibility Statement Forms will be available to interested contractors which submitted formal "Letter of Intent," and will be issued from 8:00 AM of September 25, 2001 to 5:00 PM of October 8, 2001 upon their payment of non-refundable amount of P500.00 at the following DENR office:

National Forestation Development Office — **2nd Floor Forest Management Bureau Building, DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

The Technical Working Group (TWG) created by the Pre-qualification, Bids and Award Committee for Foreign-Assisted Projects (PBAC-FAPs) will be responsible for the conduct of pre-qualification/eligibility screening of all contractor-applicants. Interested contractor-applicants shall submit their duly accomplished Contractor's Confidential Eligibility Statement, including all its attachments on the prescribed Forms and Annexes, not later than 5:00 PM of October 15, 2001, addressed to the following:

The Chairman
through the Technical Working Group (TWG)
Pre-qualification, Bids and Award Committee for
Foreign-Assisted Projects (PBAC-FAPs)
National Forestation Development Office (NFDO)
2nd Floor, Forest Management Bureau Building
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Eligible and ineligible contractor-applicants shall be notified by the PBAC-FAPs/TWG, through fax, telephone or E-mail within seven (7) days after the completion of its evaluation.

After the eligibility screening is concluded, the Bidding will be conducted by the BAC of the respective DENR Regional Offices, which shall announce the time and date of issuance of bid documents, date of site inspection and pre-bid conference, and dates of submission and opening of bids.

Interested eligible contractors can bid for any of the above projects but can be awarded only one project contract. Once a contractor is declared as winning bidder (after post-qualification), its bids submitted for other projects will no longer be considered. Such bids shall be returned unopened if the scheduled opening has not taken place yet.

DENR requires that all contractor-applicants observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of infrastructure contracts. In pursuance of this policy, the DENR will reject any contractor-applicant if it is determined that said contractor-applicant has engaged in corrupt and fraudulent practice in competing for the contract in question. The DENR will also recognize such applicant as INELIGIBLE and will not be allowed to engage in any future project with the DENR.

DENR reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any minor defect therein, or accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RAMON J.P. PAJE**
Undersecretary for ENR Operation and Chairperson, PBAC-FAPs

(PDI--Sept. 30, 2001)

Obituaries

With Fondest Memories of Love
On the First Death Anniversary
of

Engr. ELISEO Q. PAZ, SR.

Who passed on to eternal life on September 30, 2000.

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by his wife, **Juliet**, his children and their spouses, and his grandchildren.
Holy Masses are offered in the following:

Sta. Monica Parish Church ..... 7:30 a.m.
Surrat, Ilocos Norte
Sto. Niño Parish Church ..... 9:30 a.m.
Pandacan, Manila
St. Martin de Porres Parish Church ..... 10:00 a.m.
United Hills Village, Parañaque City
Holy Trinity Parish Church ..... 10:00 a.m.
Balic-Balic, Sampaloc, Manila
Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church ..... 10:00 a.m.
Gatchalian Subdivision, Las Piñas City
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church ..... 11:00 a.m.
Savage, Minnesota, USA
All Saints Catholic Church ..... 11:00 a.m.
Lakeville, Minnesota, USA
St. Louise de Marilac Catholic Parish ..... 11:00 a.m.
Bellevue, Washington, USA

Our profoundest gratitude to all who keep him in their prayers.

The family of the late

JUANITO A. RONAS

who died in the Grace of our Lord on September 28, 2001 at the age of 82

wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at Funeraria Nacional, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

HIGH FLIGHT

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings.
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling
mirth of sun-split clouds, and done a hundred
things you have not dreamed of -- wheeled
and soared and swung high in the sunlit silence.
Hovr'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along,
and flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up, the long, delirious, burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
where never lark, or even eagle flew.
And while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
the high untrespassed sanctity of space,
put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

-- John Gillespie Magee, Jr. --

Daddy wishes us all the happiness of letting the past go -- and finding new beginnings.
To all those who shared our loss, condoled and supported us in countless ways,

WE OWE YOU GRATITUDE, A MULTITUDE OF THANKS.

The Family of the Late
Col. Rizalino "Zaling" C. Cabanban PAF (Ret)
May 25, 1930 -- September 17, 2001

his wife Chit, children Rolly & Edna, Irene & Bruce, Butch & Maureen, Noela, Choly, Dinno & Sheila, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

---

BIENVENIDO MAYO MARALIT

Peacefully joined the Creator on 27 September 2001 at the age of 81.

His bereaved wife **Aning;** children and children-in-law **Victor, Malou & Freddie(†), Aura, Kaka & Ido, Mayot & Marlon Sr., Yuying and Bunny;** grandchildren, nieces and nephews request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 2 October 2001 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9:00 AM Mass.

Rosario Calero Lozano

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on September 22, 2001 in Sydney, Australia

We, her bereaved children, **Lulu, Lita, Pep, Ricky, Poch, Badoy,** and **Malena;** together with our spouses, **Juanito, Mike, Becky, Dorothy, Carol,** and **Vicente;** our children; and grandchildren request you to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

We wish to inform relatives and friends that a requiem Mass will be held on October 6, 2001 at 4:00 p.m.; while novena Masses will begin on Monday, October 1, 2001 at 6:15 p.m. All Masses to be held at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City.

Col. ESTANISLAO "BALTY" M. BALTAZAR, SR. (Ret.)

(PMA Class 1938 - USAFFE)

Passed away in the grace of our Lord on September 21, 2001 at the age of 86.

at Hackensack Medical Center, New Jersey, USA

His beloved wife **Isabel Garcia;** children **Pat & Marie, Eddie & Erran, Balty Jr., Pen & Tony, Beth & Willy, Ramon, Marilou & Monet;** grandchildren **Ricky, Miguel, Jason & Sharon, Michael & David, Jon & Paul, Kenneth & Iselle, Marites, Cecille & Andrew, Michelle, Karissa, Isabel & Goyo,** request the pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment was at St. Anthony's Cemetery, Nanuet, New York, USA on September 29, 2001.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again. **2 Corinthians 4:14**

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Address	Lot Area	Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
ANTIPOLO				
Lot 11 Blk. 6, Andover St. Vermont Park Exe. Mayamot'	100	2-storey with 3BR and 2TB		1.68M
No. 6 Humabon St. Kingsville Subd. Bo. Mayamot'	379	office/ residential building		2.58MN
No. 15 Nellie St. Gloria Heights Subd.	236	bungalow with 3BR and 2TB	227	1.5M
BINAGAN				
Lot 1 Blk. 5 Reby St. cor. Diamond St., Consuelo Sub., Abangan, Marilao	232	single-detached house with 4BR and 3TB	193	1.8M
Lot 25 Blk. 15 Bush St. McArthur Village Longos, Marilao	126	bungalow with 2BR and 2TB	102	850T
CALOOCAN CITY				
No. 71 3rd St. Bo. Catanghan	325	2-storey resdl./ commercial bldg with mezzanine (plus warehouse)	250	7M
Lot 20 Blk. 2 Psalm St. Sto. Tomas Village IV Deparo	240	2-storey house with 3BR and 3TB plus servant's quarter	237	2.9M
Lot 21 Blk. 17 Goldenshower St. BF Homes	240	single-detached with 3BR and 3TB	224	1.4M
CAINTA, RIZAL				
No. 11 Manganese Road Pilar Village'	240	house and lot		1.61M
16 Kuala Lumpur St. BF Homes	206	2-storey with 5BR and 5TB	224	3.5M
162 Venice St. BF Homes International	200	2-storey with 12BR and 6TB	453	2.4M
MAKATI CITY				
Unit 301, Crown Tower H.V. dela Costa St. Salcedo Village		condo unit with 2BR and 2TB	178.92	10M
6740 Tayto St. Poblacion Pilar	189	1 unit of 2-storey and 1 unit of unfinished 3-storey apartment	225	4.5M
MANILA				
Unit 1405 Regina Garden II 703 Regina Regente St.		condo unit with 3BR and 2TB	159	6.36M
Unit 1401 Regina Garden II 703 Regina Regente St.		condo unit with 3BR and 2TB	151	6.04M
MUNTINLUPA CITY				
169 Buendia St., Tunasan		townhouse with 2BR and 1TB		
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9-B-19			65.36	620T
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9-B-21			65.36	620T
9-B-22			64.00	608T
Lot 13 Blk. 8 San Bernardino St. Susana Heights Subd.	500	3-storey with 10BR and 5TB	621	8M

Address	Lot Area	Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
MUNTINLUPA CITY				
59-A Lourdes St. San Jose Village Alabang	326	bungalow with 3BR and 2TB	131	2.6M
PARANAQUE CITY				
No. 32 Benitez corner E. Yuchengco St. BF Homes	984	single-detached with 7BR and 6TB, swimming pool and basement	523	8M
No. 37 Dela Rama corner C. Benitez St. BF Homes	316	bungalow with 5BR and 6TB	260	3.6M
No. 24 A. Chieco St. BF Homes	280	bungalow with 3BR and 3TB	245	4.9M
Unit G-104 Centermall Condominium Pres. Ave., BF Homes		commercial condominium	47	1.575M
PASIG CITY				
Renaissance 2000 Morelco Ave. Unit 901, 9th Flr.		condo unit with 1BR and 1TB	70.689	3.7M
Unit 25-7 Crescent Condominium San Miguel Ave.		2 level condo with 3BR and 4TB	367.5	15M
QUEZON CITY				
Lot 7 Blk. S-155 Unit 14 Pointe Alta Townhomes, Samar Ave. West Triangle, Diliman	80	3-storey townhouse with 4BR and 3TB	214	5.4M
No. 19 Don Ramon St. Talayan Village'	925	residential house	387	14M
Lot 8 Blk. 3 Bonner St. Fairmonts Subd. North Fairview	300	unfinished 2-storey house with 7BR and 6TB	430	3.3M
Unit 1103 Prince Gregory Condominium 12th Ave., Cubao		condo unit with 1BR and 1TB	41	1.4M
Unit 10 Capitol Golf Hills Townhomes		4-storey townhomes with 4BR and 4TB	230.61	6.5M
Unit 6, Vermont Square Townhomes, Sonrise Dr. Santolan		townhouse with 4BR and 5TB	174.2	3.2M
Lot 4497-B-2-A No. 1133 Edsa Balintawak	1000	office and residential building	1121	40M
Unit D-70, K-Villa Townhomes, Sanville Subd., Tandang Sora	95	2-storey townhouse with 5BR and 2TB	157	2.8M
Unit G, Villa Valencia Townhomes, Valencia St.	120	2-storey townhouse with 4BR and 4TB	235	6.5M

QUEZON CITY - NOVALICHES				
Lot 17 Blk. 11 St. Philip St. San Pedro 7 Subd. San Bartolome Novaliches	200	2-storey with 5BR and 2TB	180	1.7M
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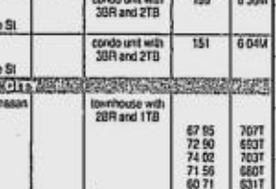

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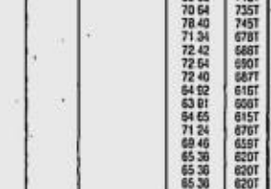

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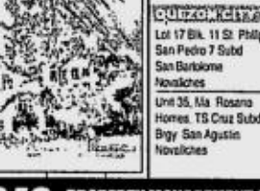

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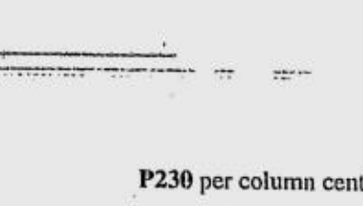

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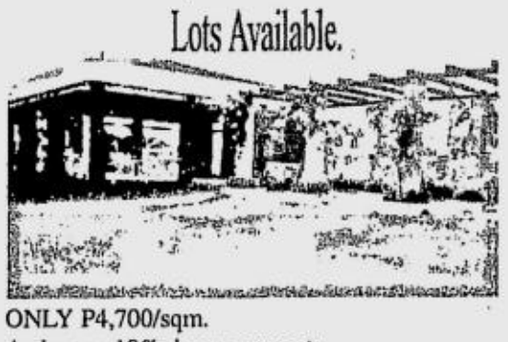

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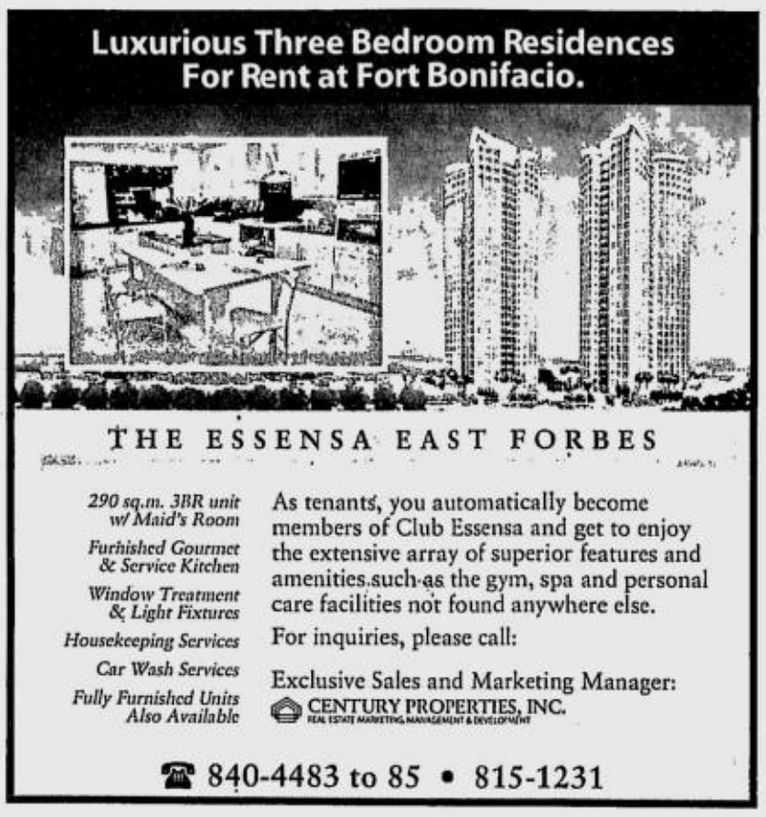

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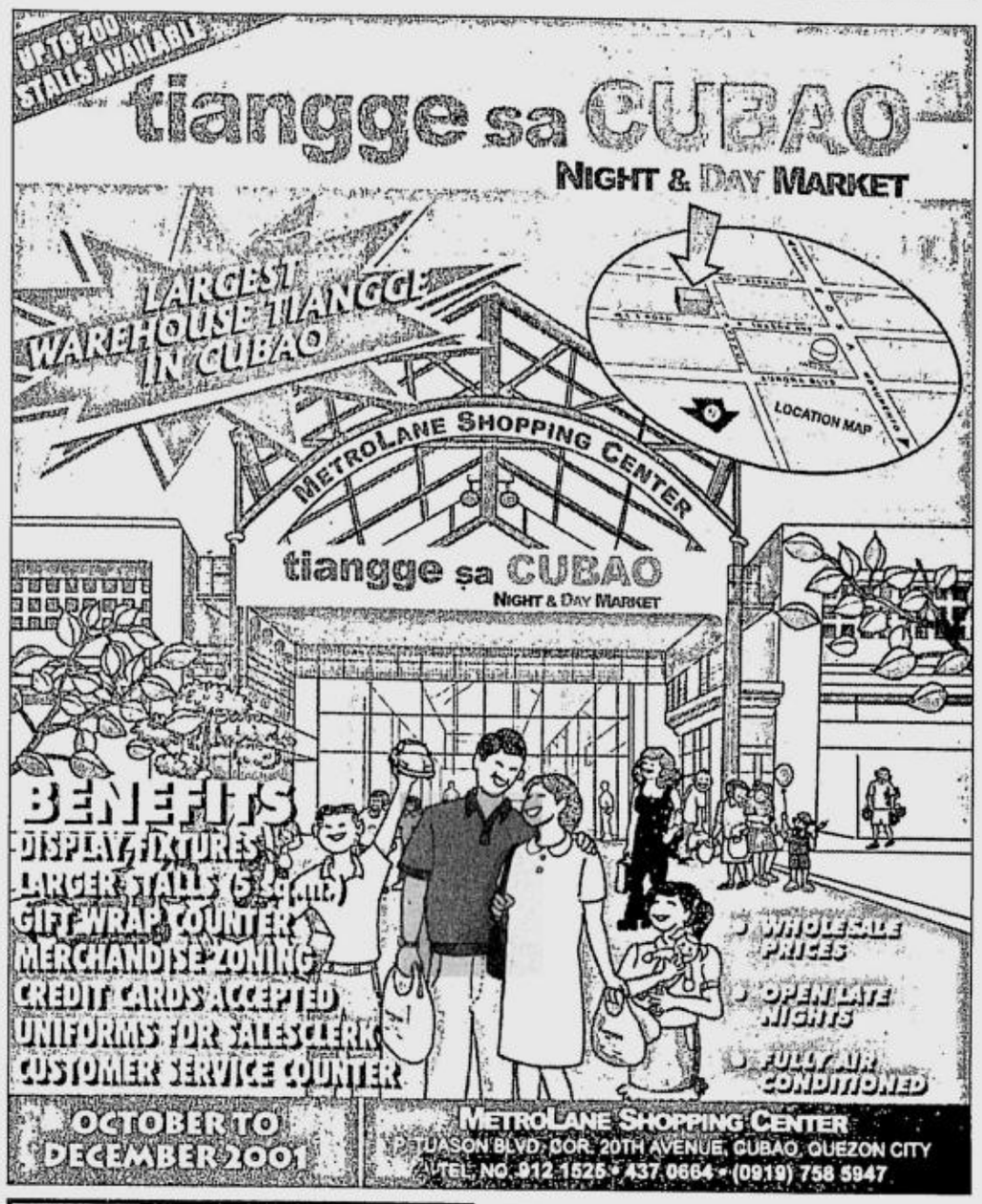

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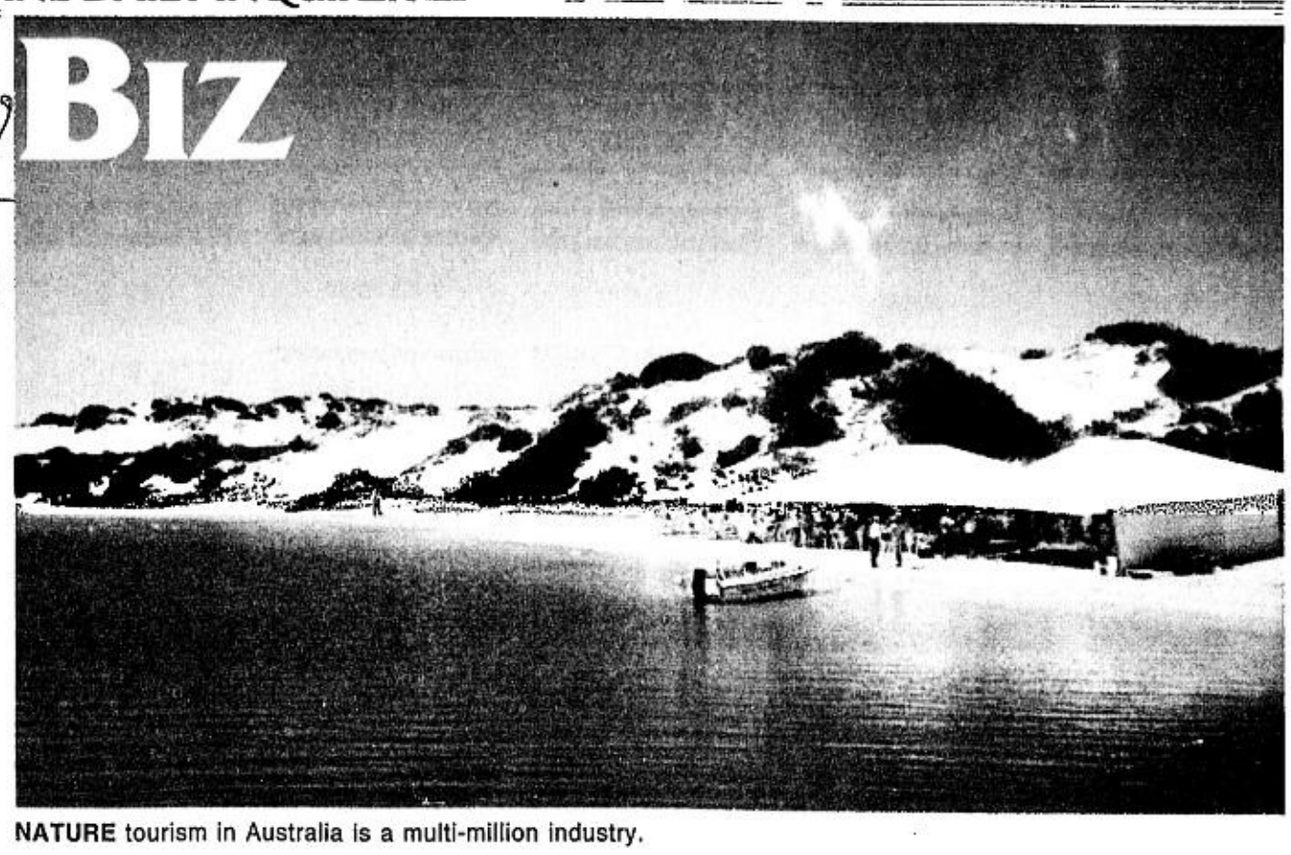
Nature provides niche in Australian tourism



NATURE tourism in Australia is a multi-million industry.

BY ANGELINA G. GOLOY

THE year 2002 is the International Year of Ecotourism (IYE2002). The United Nations has made the designation to push the integration of the principles of sustainable development into the tourism industry, and has commissioned the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Environment Program as coordinators.

Among other goals, IYE2002 seeks to encourage cooperation among governments, international, regional, and private organizations in promoting development that is hinged on environment protection, as well as explore the economic and environmental benefits of sustainable tourism.

One of the countries vigorously participating in the event is Australia, known worldwide for its "Big Nature," and which prides itself in being a leader in nature and ecotourism destinations and practices. Quite appropriately, the Australian launch of IYE2002 will be held in late January next year in the state of South Australia, where nature-based tourism is a niche market.

Nature tourism is a AUD$155-million-a-year industry, employing 2,600 full time personnel, according to Michelle Hocking of the South Australian Tourist Commission (SATC), citing figures from a study on the "Economic Contribution of Tourism Extended Issues."

Another research showed that 86 percent of tourists identified "nature and natural environment" as a key element of a South Australian holiday, while 81 percent sought opportunities to explore the land more, added Hocking, who is the Nature-Based Tourism Coordinator of the SATC's Product Development Group.

Nature is one of the four segments of South Australian tourism, the others being food and wine, coastal and marine, and backpacking, said Hocking in an interview in the capital, Adelaide, during a recent trip sponsored by Qantas and the SATC.

As early as 1989, market research established that the growing worldwide interest in the environment would influence travel trends. South Australia took the lead early on in marketing its nature product, then shifted its focus at a certain point but is now regaining its former stature. (South Australia has also long been known as the "wine state," producing 70 percent of Australian wine exports, and attracting more tourists to wineries than any other state.)

In working to acquire a bigger share of visitors for nature tourism, the SATC maintains a balance between enabling more people to enjoy nature and conserving it for future generations. Thus it insists on guided tours.

"About 90 percent of tours here are managed so that the interpretation and information leave a lasting impression on tourists," Hocking said. "A professional (can) tell you about the land you're walking on, its history, plant and animal life, plans for conservation or some sustainable infrastructure proposed for the area."

Precisely because of the sensitive environmental issues surrounding their businesses, nature tourism operators deal with certain "constraints," she acknowledged. Those who take tourists to national parks, for instance, need a license from the National Parks and Wildlife South Australia.

Tour operators may also seek accreditation under the Nature and Ecotourism Accreditation Program (NEAP). A world first, the program was developed jointly by the Ecotourism Association of Australia and the Australian Tourism Operators Network to ensure authentic, quality nature encounters.

Under NEAP, nature tourism and ecotourism are both defined as "ecologically sustainable tourism with a primary focus on experiencing natural areas," except that the latter specifies areas that "foster environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation."

The SATC's Business Development Unit assists tour operators in gaining "best business practices." An Advice Kit covers topics like costing/pricing a product, marketing it, and managing the budget and cash flow. Operators may also consult the South Australia Business Center on how to put together a business plan, including securing licenses, insurance and permits.

As though to compensate for the more stringent standards compliance guidelines, nature tourism generally entails smaller investments, compared to, say, wine tourism. Although she wouldn't hazard citing costs, Hocking said, it would depend on the type of tour. A day trip within the city, for instance, would require transportation, while an out-of-town trip would entail accommodation as well.

Costs vary, depending on where the tour is conducted, she said, but on the average, nature tours don't cost more than other tours. Many nature tours include accommodation, meals, transfers and the ser-

NATURE / B9

Online bank challenges Japan's conservative investing climate

TOKYO—Introduced with considerable fanfare to a nation accustomed to unfriendly banks and savings accounts with meager interest, Sony Corp.'s new Internet bank offered Japanese consumers a refreshing change.

Not only did Sony Bank entice potential investors with higher interest, its colorful website with a Monopoly game-like design also provided online investment advice, currency exchange rates and money transfer services.

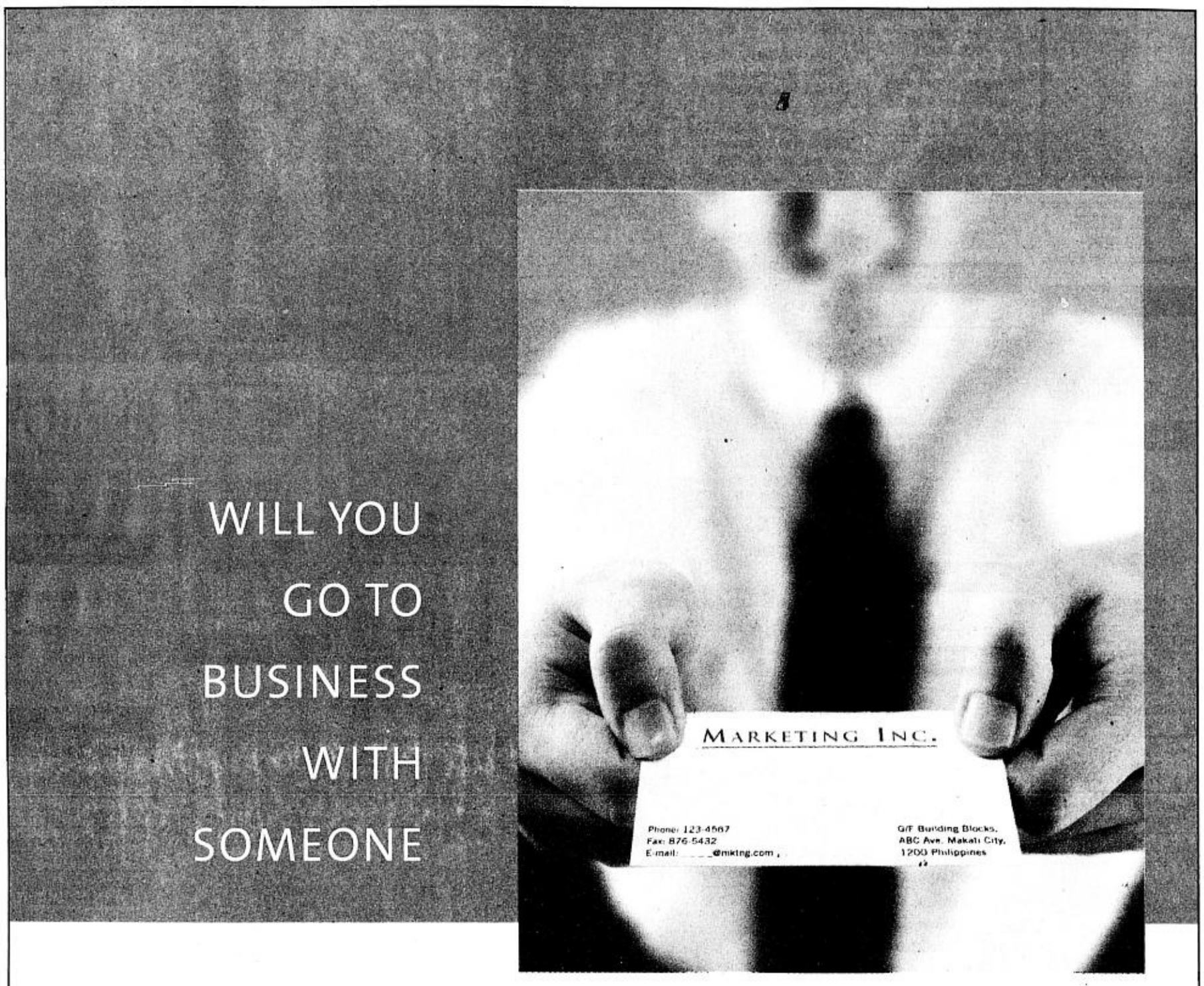
This, in a country where many banks still don't bother to provide 24-hour automatic teller machines.

Yet since its June inauguration, Sony Bank has attracted just 28,000 depositors—most of them men in their 20s and 30s.

By launching an online bank, the entertainment and electronics conglomerate is gambling big on the potential for Internet Age-induced change in Japan's staid financial culture, acknowledges Sony Bank representative director Shigeru Ishii.

"Japanese people tend to recoil from risks," Ishii said in an interview at the bank's headquarters. "Saving money hasn't really been about the management of assets but just about keeping it somewhere safe in case of an emergency."

A modest operation of 100 workers, the bank is split between two tiny offices. One is a room in an apartment building, where about 20 people work at computer terminals. *AP*



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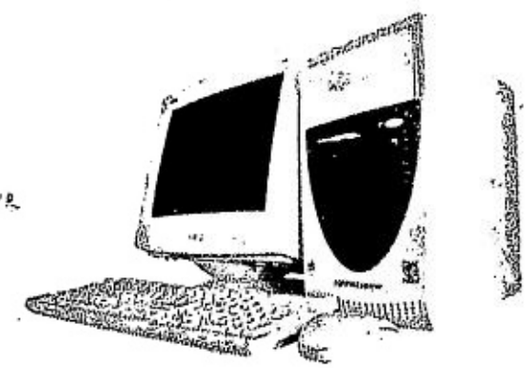

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2001

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Chocolate ni Cholo
Ubos sa Breeze Powermatic.

BREEZE POWERMATIC
Recommended by:
AVANDERA CO. LAUNDROMAT

Rizal would have bargain-hunted here, too

TEXT BY CATHY BABAO-GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY RANDY HOMILLOSA

TUCKED away in two streets of a bustling area in the western part of Quezon City are stalls where one can find various gift items made from ceramic, resin and wrought iron. Many of the items sold here are export overruns that are bought by the vendors by lot and sold at prices cheaper than those found in malls and department stores or even at other bargain hunts.

Tianggian sa Dapitan is located on Kanlaon and Dapitan Streets. The stores open as early as 7 a.m. and close around 8 p.m. Toward Christmas time, like all other *tiangge* around town, they keep the shops open until close to midnight. For now the best time to go is on a weekday at, say, 10 a.m. Majority of the stalls are already open and the vendors have their items laid out on the sidewalk or on makeshift tables and benches.

COOKIE jar

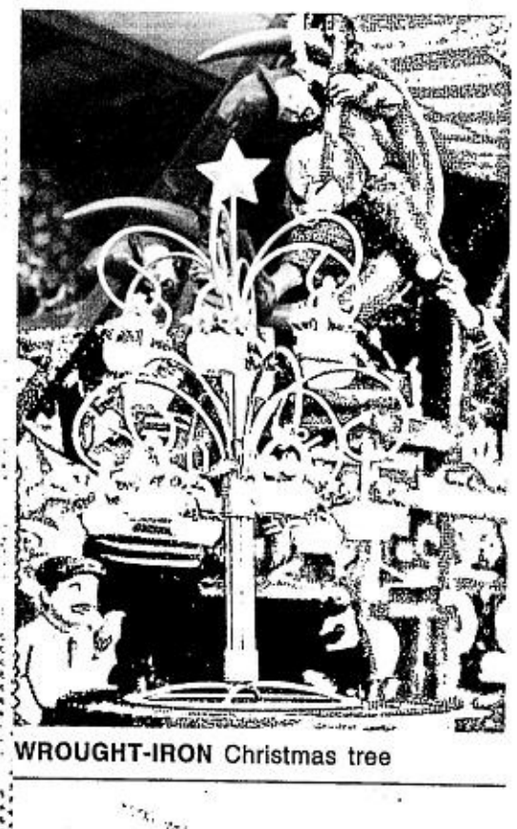
Don't expect great visual merchandising here, folks. One needs to have an eye for aesthetics and the patience to scour the items that are piled in haphazard fashion on rundown tables and shelves. At first glance, many of the items look kitschy but up close, some are treasures. The best part is that the prices are very reasonable.

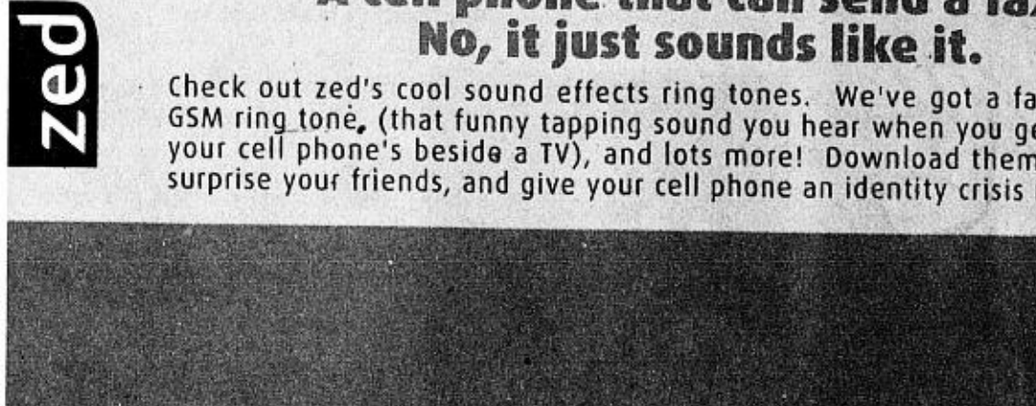
Diverse crowd

A diverse crowd frequents the Dapitan *tiangge*. On weekdays, housewives come looking for home items or Christmas gifts. Gay production designers show up around October and November to buy their clients' Christmas décor. Bazaar participants also load up here on what they can sell. This is also paradise for those who make gift baskets, since baskets of all sizes, shapes and make are quite a bargain here.

On weekends, working women trek to this *tiangge* to shop for items for personal use and for giving away. The Baretto sisters, Marjorie and Claudine, have been spotted here several times. So have the De Belen siblings, Janice and Gelli. Currently, the roads are undergoing repairs

RIZAL/p.C6


WROUGHT-IRON Christmas tree


BASKETS for fruits

Tianggian sa Dapitan is a magnet for those seeking to spruce up their homes all year round

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Always check for soaked diapers from time to time. Diaper rash occurs more frequently every time baby's skin is exposed to wetness for long periods. And to make sure that baby is protected from diaper rash, apply Vitamins A and D Vandol every time you change his/her diapers. It's your baby's regular rubbing of skin vitamins.
VITAMINS A & D
VANDOL

JOSEPH KENT OSIAL, 3-D animator/director, Imagination Inc.

Imagination Inc. is a production house that specializes in audio-video presentations (AVPs). These are necessary, like for company brochures, for they show a company's progress through the years. At present, there's not much demand for AVPs in our country, unlike in the US where you'll always see new ones on television and in movie houses. Having its own AVP is not the priority of most companies here. It's either they don't have a budget for it or they can't speak of any improvements in their business. With such minimal need for AVPs, the number of our clients has been greatly reduced.

GYNNA GAGELONIA, housewife

My children, aged 13 and 1, have been badly affected by the economic crisis. If you only have one job, you won't be able to make both ends meet. As a freelance writer for four publications, my home has become my office where I have my own computer and fax machine. I enjoy such setup because I can spend more quality time with my kids. I have a maid with whom I leave my children whenever the need calls for it. I've become an expert in juggling my time between my family and freelance writing. And since my earnings from writing are not enough, I engage in selling from time to time.

TALK TO US

How has the bad economy affected you?

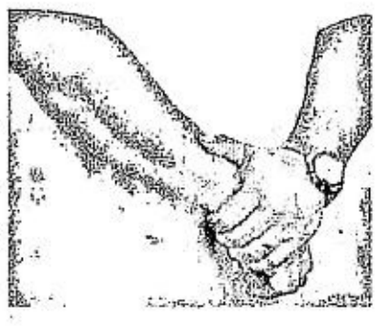
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

ARE hard times really here? You won't think so if you go around the malls, check out the restaurants or, well, read the society pages. To better understand those falling graphs, we went up and down, high and low, and asked real people about how their lives had been affected by the sinking value of the peso. Here's what some of them said.

Rowena C. Burgos

RAJEE COLET, vice president and general manager, Paragon Printing Corp.

Our printing business has been badly affected by the economic crisis. These are difficult times and, fortunately, our company's still here. Competition has become so tough that our volume of sales has been reduced by 25 percent. We had to lower the prices of our services. The company's earnings are just enough to pay our employees' salaries. As an employer, it's our duty to give them job security. But sad to say, we had to reduce the number of our employees who do piece work. We really have to get enough contracts in order to pay our overheads. Looking at the bright side, the crisis has brought out the best in us. It has inspired us to come up with innovative ideas so we can get more clients.



SHERYL CABALANG, second year high school, San Mateo National High School

Kahit nasa Amerika ang mama ko at nagpapadala ng dollars, *apektado pa rin ako ng* bad economy *dahil halos lahat ng bilihin ay nagtaas ng presyo, lalo na ang pamasahe,* tuition fee *at* school supplies. *At sa aking palagay, ang mga krimeng hindi nalulutas ng ating pamahalaan ay nakakaapekto din sa ating ekonomiya, katulad ng pagbebenta ng bawal na gamot at pangho-*holdup. *Karamihan sa mga nabibiktima ay kami ring mga estudyante na walang kalaban-laban. Sana, bago magdesisyon ang Pangulong* Gloria Macapagal Arroyo *na tumulong sa Amerika, ayusin na muna niya ang mga problema sa ating bansa.*

ARMITA RUFINO, former president, Cultural Center of the Philippines

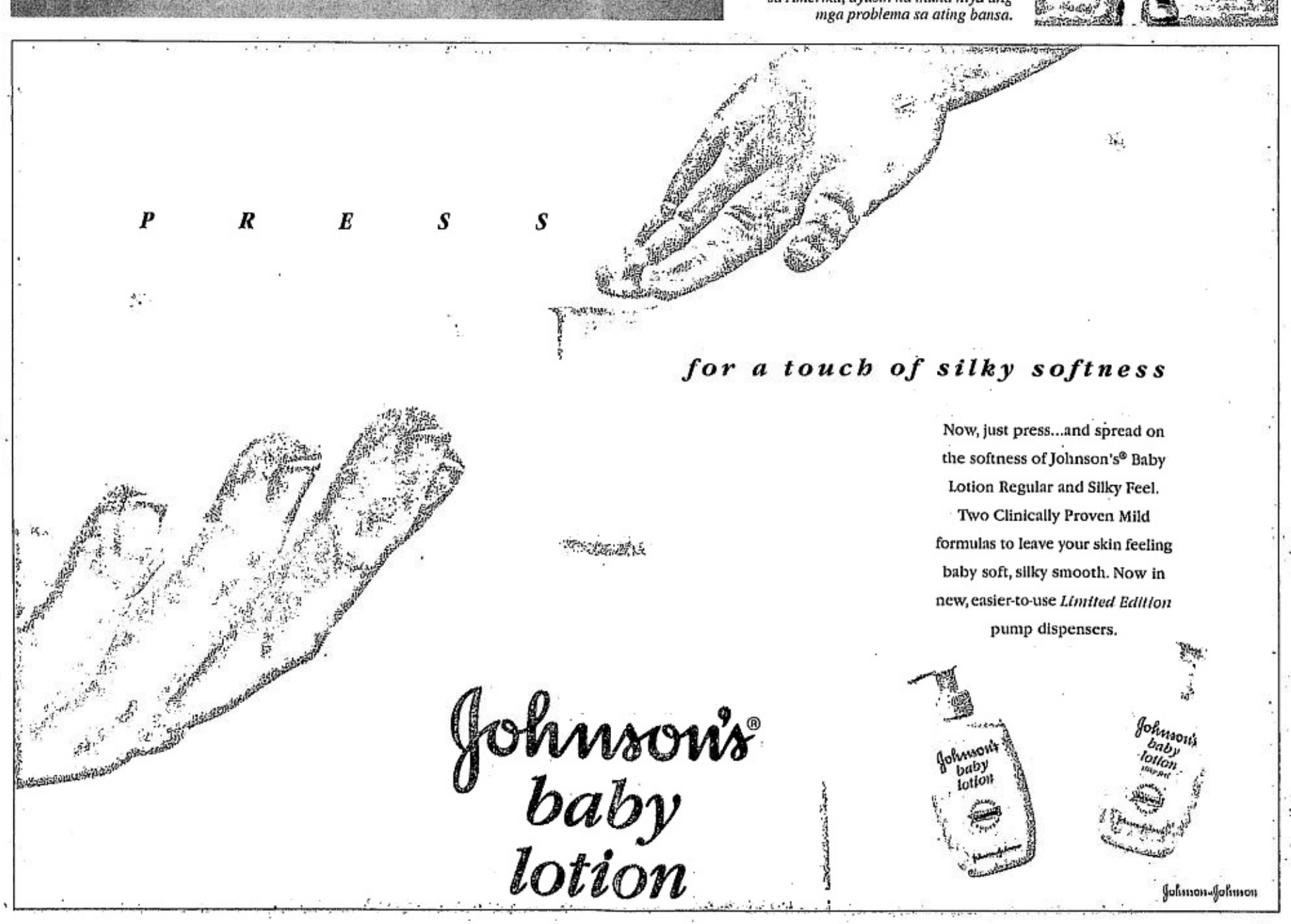
Business is bad. My flower shop, Fleur Essence, has been greatly affected, too. Nowadays, couples who are planning to get married allot a lower budget for floral expenses. Corporate accounts have been reduced and most corporations have lessened their expenses. Some of them opt not to use flowers for their events. Many organizations, especially in the field of arts, have a hard time looking for sponsors for their affairs. Most would-be sponsors beg off from giving financial aid.

AIRENE CLAVERAZ, Grade 6 pupil, St. Matthew College

With our bad economy, my parents are having a hard time in paying our household bills, including my tuition fee. They cannot give me a big allowance. *Kaya kailangan kong pagkasyahin ito para sa* snacks, juice and *ulam*. It has greatly affected me. Can our government officials do something to save our dying economy?

MICHAEL FRITZ SANCHEZ, third year engineering student, Technological Institute of the Philippines

Bilang estudyante, naapektuhan din ako ng pagbagsak ng ating ekonomiya. Lalo na sa pagtaas ng pamasahe, tuition fee, school supplies *at iba pang gamit para sa eskuwela. Dati ay nakakapagmeryenda pa ako, pero ngayon ay hindi na dahil na rin sa kagustuhan kong makatipid o makapag-ipon man lang.*



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The **University of Santo Tomas** commits to total quality health care through the continuing education and welfare of its professional staff, employees and trainees. By becoming a center for excellence in research and education, **UST** solidifies its position as the premier **University Hospital in the Philippines.**

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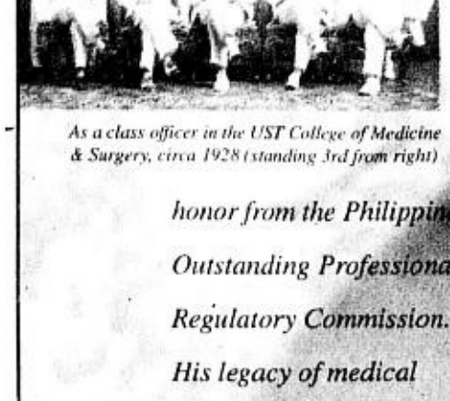
Nestlé embodies a whole range of positive values on nutrition: from nutrition as a corporate commitment, to nutrition as an active link to healthy, convenient and delicious food at prices that are within reach. It expresses this ongoing commitment to health and well-being by supporting research on the science of nutrition.

A Legacy of Knowledge and Humanity

Dr. Hermogenes Santos is a medical luminary from the University of Santo Tomas. He studied and taught Anatomy, Physiology and Medicine at the UST.

He served as professor in 1951, assistant head and later head for three terms; and as assistant dean, acting dean, and later chairman of the UST Department of Medicine. He was an expert in clinico-pathological studies and trained generations of medical students, interns and young doctors, some of whom now occupy top positions in private and public hospitals, health institutions and medical societies.



As a class officer in the UST College of Medicine & Surgery, circa 1928 (standing 3rd from right)

Dr. Santos was a Thomasian who exemplified the ideals of teaching, research and community service. He received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor from the Philippine Medical Association, and the Outstanding Professional Award from the Professional Regulatory Commission. His legacy of medical education guided by Christian values is the cornerstone of the medical forum held in cooperation with Nestlé Philippines.

As a young doctor with his family

Dr. Herm

A Night of R An Evening

The UST Faculty and Surgery, Medica Association and Hos in cooperation with Philippines, recently the Dr. Hermogenes Memorial Lecture la September 11, 2001 Rigodon Ballroom o Peninsula Manila.

This was held in h of one of the Univers most outstanding edu

UST and Nestlé cement closer ties: (from left to right Nestlé Chairman & CEO, Mr. Juan Santos; Nestlé Marketing Director, Mr. Yves Manghardt; UST COO Atty. Pilar Almira; and UST Hospital Medical Director Dr. Tito Torralba

(From left to right) Dr. Santos' former students and now professors at UST, Dr. Vicente Rosales Sr., Dr. Dr. Tito Torralba (concurrent UST Hospital Medical Director), pay tribute to their teacher and mentor

AND NESTLÉ PHILIPPINES, INC.
of Continuing Medical Education

A Partnership for Health and Quality of Life

UST and **Nestlé** have combined forces to forge mutual understanding and common strategic directions regarding advancements in nutrition. Opportunities that are of mutual benefit to both organizations are being explored and developed.

Joint Undertakings on Clinical Nutrition

The two companies have entered into agreements which have established the following:

Nestlé Professorial Chair
Nestlé Sub-Specialty Fellowship Program
Participation in Post-Graduate Courses
'Gatas sa Gatas' feeding at the Pedia OPD
Basic Nutrition Seminar Workshop
Outreach Programs
Nutrition Support Teams

ogenes Santos Memorial Lecture

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Spearheading the activity were Atty. Pilar P. Almira, Chief Operating Officer of the UST Hospital; Dr. Mary Jean Guno, Assistant Medical Director for Training of the UST Hospital; Dr. Cynthia F. Fernandez, President of the UST Medical Staff Association; and Ms. Jessica G. Tumao, Vice President of the Nestlé Infant & Clinical Nutrition Department. The medical forum was conducted as part of the annual program established by UST and Nestlé, strategic partners in quality health care, to provide continuing education to professional staff and medical students.

UST is a premier tertiary health care institution and leading center for education and research.

Nestlé, on the other hand, has a world class research and development facility on nutrition.

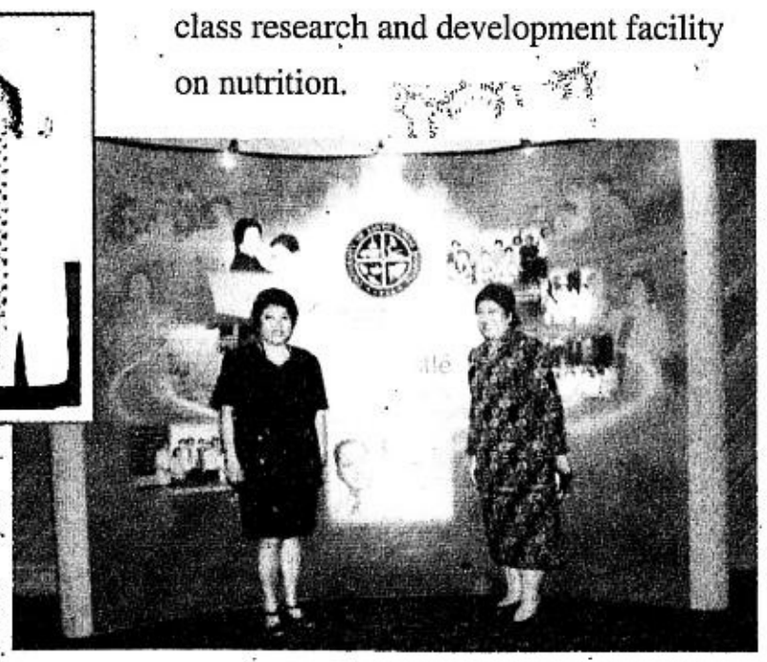
Mr. Honorato Santos conveys gratitude of honoree's family to organizers of event

The two-part scientific lecture entitled "State of the Art Enteral Nutrition" was the highlight of the evening. Dr. Noel Bautista, head of UST Hospital's Nutrition Support Team and Dr. Jonathan Asprer, president of the Philippine Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, delivered the plenary lecture.

The list of distinguished guests included: Former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez and his wife, Health Undersecretary Milagros Fernandez, Director Corazon Barba of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Director Susie Limbo of the Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines, Nestlé Chairman and CEO, Mr. Juan B. Santos and family, as well as members of the executive committees of UST and Nestlé .

Dr. Noel Bautista, UST Associate Professor and...

...Dr. Jonathan Asprer, UST Professor, deliver medical lecture on "State-of-the-art Enteral Nutrition"


Atty. Pilar Almira, Chief Operating Officer of UST Hospital (right) and Ms. Jessica Tumao, Nestlé Vice President & Head of Infant and Clinical Nutrition Department (left) stand in front of UST-Nestlé Partnerhip collage

Nestlé Chairman & CEO, Mr. Juan Santos, and UST Hospital COO, Atty. Pilar Almira (3rd. & 4th from right) hold certificate and plaque commemorating the event. Flanking them are (from left to right) Mr. Yves Manghardt, Nestlé Marketing Director; Ms. Jessica Tumao, Nestlé VP & Head of Infant and Clinical Nutrition Department, and Dr. Tito Torralba, UST Hospital Medical Director

Nicolas De Jesus and

Lending an air of nostalgia to the occasion was the special audio-visual presentation on the life and times of Dr. Hermogenes Santos.

This was followed by live testimonials delivered by several of Dr. Santos' former students: Dr. Vicente J.A. Rosales, Sr. and Dr. Nicolas J. De Jesus, both professors at the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. Dr. Tito T. Torralba, Medical Director of the UST Hospital, likewise shared his personal recollections of Dr. Santos.

Nestlé Advocates Infant & Clinical Nutrition

Nestlé's wide exposure today to doctors has been established over the years through its medical representatives. This has resulted in a strong and good image in the scientific community. The Nestlé commitment is shown by its organization of scientific events and development of educational programs and publications for health professionals with regard to infant and clinical nutrition.

It also implements educational information activities and programs for consumers and consumer groups regarding health and nutrition, complementary to its offer of innovative products that have unique nutritional properties.

Nestlé
CLINICAL NUTRITION

ANTHURIUMS

PISTIL leaves

WONDER white

ASTER

ORCHIDS

Flower power center

By Tita V. Giron
Photos By Randy Homillosa

CHRYSANTHEMUM

The cramped area around a rickety bus station in inner-city Sampaloc in Manila has blossomed into a haven for florists and other flower children

RED roses

NO longer the florists' best kept secret, Dangwa *bagsakan* center in Sampaloc, Manila is now known to people from all walks of life and with every imaginable reason to buy flowers—to deck the church altar, to take home, to inaugurate a new establishment, to give as gift, to bring to the funeral or just to please one's self.

Dangwa, which is really a terminal of buses plying Northern Luzon routes, used to cater mainly to flower shop owners and hotel florists. But now it's usual to see nuns, students and office-goers mingling among the florists and haggling for prices of flowers like real pros.

There are many reasons Dangwa is always teeming with buyers, particularly after office hours. This night flower market offers the widest variety in town when it comes to florist's blooms, leaves and accessories. The merchandise comes from all over the country. Colorful bromeliads and other exotic tropicals from Quezon, cool growing blooms from Baguio, heliconias and gingers from Laguna and Quezon, hydrangeas and mickey mouse fruits from Davao, papyrus and eucaplyptus leaves from Mindanao, roses from Batangas and Cavite, and many, many more.

But the main reason people go to Dangwa *bagsakan* is because it offers the lowest priced flower supplies in the country. Where, for example, can you find roses selling for as low as P35 per bundle containing two dozen flowers? Of course, these are short-stemmed red roses, mediocre varieties that will not make it to Makati's high-end flower shops. But alongside these culls are top-quality roses selling at half the price of Makati shops.

When and where to go

Old timers claim that the Dangwa *bagsakan* is actually a spillover from the old flower center around Quiapo church. In recent years, Quiapo's flower sellers used to go to the bus station at anticipated arrival schedules and make a grab for the bundles of flowers sent by Baguio growers. Thursday evening would be the busiest as the Quiapo vendors had to prepare the flowers for the Black Nazarene devotees who flocked to the church on Fridays. They bought flowers to offer at the church and to take home for their altars.

The more enterprising flower vendors finally found it more practical to camp close to the doors of the Dangwa bus station. (There are other provincial bus stations in the vicinity, too.) What started as a small cluster of sellers around the station has multiplied and now occupies both sides of Dos Castillas street and stretches along two-and-a-half blocks.

Although the market is open every day, the best time to go there is at night from Thursday to Saturday when the market comes alive from 6 p.m. to early morning. The market is sleepy on Monday to Wednesday, and many sellers rest on Sunday. Best picks are from Thursday 6 p.m. to early morning Friday.

Prices

Prices vary according to the availability of supply and location of stalls. It is expected that high-quality items—usually found in the middle block—are more expensive. For example, a bundle of dendrobium flowers sell at P180 medium; P230, long; and P250 extra long. The same flowers are P10-P20 less in other sections.

Prevailing prices of flowers this season are: P130 per stem of liliums; P160 dozen gerberas; P250 Ecuador carnations; P5 per piece of Vanda flower; P50 per torch ginger; P70 per bromeliad; P150 per golden aster; and P60 per ornamental pineapple fruit.

Prices of high-quality chrysanthemums range from P180-400 per bundle; mediocre from P30-120. Flowers of exotic gingers sell anywhere from P10 (local *barak)* to 20 per curcuma or honeycomb. Imported hydrangea from Baguio and Davao is about P300 per head while the small version that vendors call "local hydrangea" is P100 each.

Dangwa is the only place where one can find the most interesting array of leaves for flower arrangement. The varieties include palms, ferns, dracaena, *ti*, eucalyptus, papyrus, papua, sanseviera, *kamuning*, cinamomo and many more. These are sold in bundles and priced per kilo.

Reasonably priced accessories are also available. For example, a piece of colorful *sinamay* cloth costs P20. Also available are floral foam, ribbons, baskets, twigs, mickey mouse fruits and weathered wood pieces.

Tips

The best time to go to Dangwa is at night. Not only is it cooler, but this is the time when new supplies are unloaded. The flowers and leaves are as fresh as they can get.

Go around and find out what varieties are available. Check the condition of the merchandise. It deserves to be ignored if some petals or leaves fall off.

It pays to compare prices. Find out why some items are cheaper than others. Why pay less when quality is at stake? Don't be ashamed to haggle prices.

Lastly, wear comfortable shoes for the long walk.

E-mail author at mariettagiron@hotmail.com

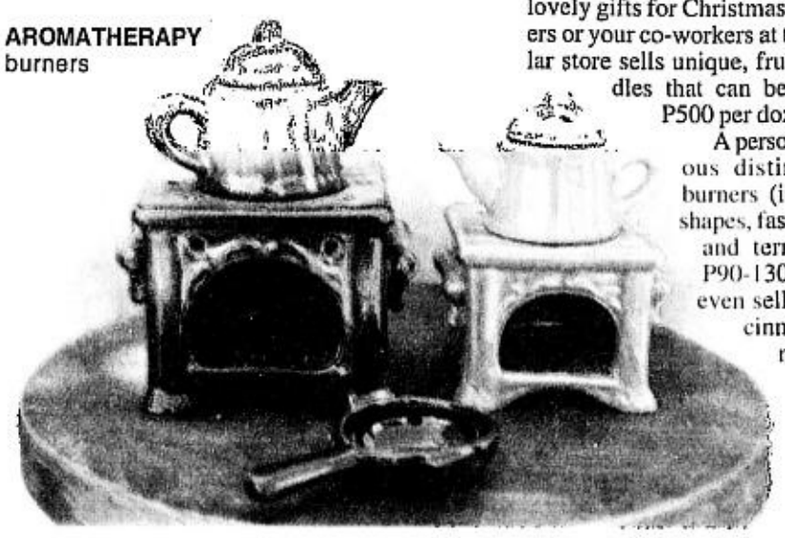
You don't have to get out of Metro Manila for your peso to go a long way. At these bargain centers, you can even haggle.

Rizal would have bargain-hunted here, too

SUGAR and creamer set

SCENTED fruit candles

AROMATHERAPY burners



(From page C1)

that will be completed in early October. Once construction is done, the vendors say they will come out in full force.

Women who fancy the country look for their homes will go crazy in Dapitan. There are ceramic cookie jars of every color, size and shape. Snowmen, reindeer, bears and Santa (priced from P200-250 per) are already making their presence felt this early.

There are utensil holders (with a set of cooking utensils) with sunflower or berry patterns (P140) and pretty plates of various sizes and designs (some commissioned by the US company Pier One Imports) that will look lovely on anyone's dining table. Prices vary from P40-75 per plate. For your kitchen countertops, there are large colorful ceramic jars for onions, garlic or tomato reasonably priced at P150 each.

Haven

The Dapitan *tiangge* is also a haven for those who like wrought-iron décor. Candelabras, votive holders with brightly colored receptacles, are priced from under P100-300 for the more elaborate designs. Put a dash of magic and mystery to your dining or living room areas by pairing these candleholders with floating flower candles, available at P25 per pack of four. These also make lovely gifts for Christmas for your child's teachers or your co-workers at the office. One particular store sells unique, fruit-shaped scented candles that can be bought wholesale at P500 per dozen or P50 pesos.

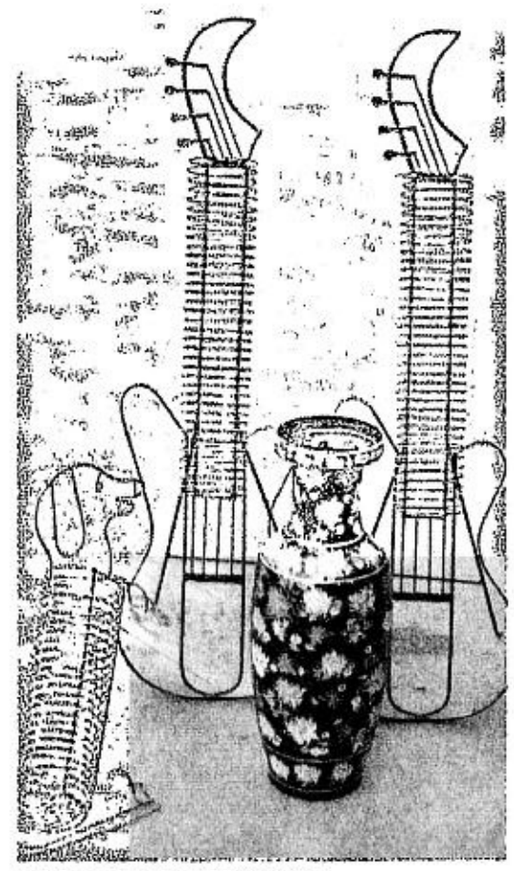
A personal favorite are the various distinctive aromatherapy burners (in different colors and shapes, fashioned in ceramic, clay and terra cotta) priced from P90-130. One store in Dapitan even sells aromatherapy oils—cinnamon, lemon and vanilla—that can be bundled up with these burners to make nice, thoughtful gifts for friends who are stressed out.

Just around the corner is a market where one can buy fruits to place in the beautifully colored rattan or abaca baskets that abound at the Dapitan tiangge. If fruits aren't your thing, you may check the several plant stores around the bend that sell orchids, bromeliads, ferns and other flora.

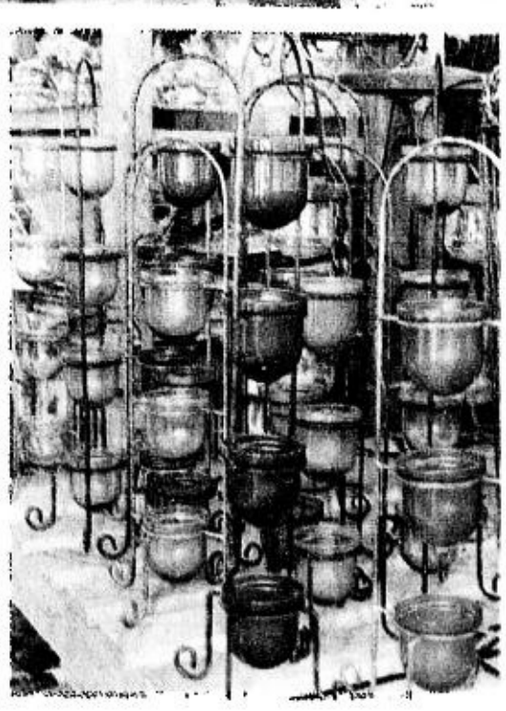
Make sure, though, that you have a full tummy and have gone to the restroom before hieing off to Dapitan. There are no decent toilets within a 5-km radius of the *tiangge*. Comfortable shoes and cool clothing are de rigeuer. Though not as congested as Divisoria or Baclaran, the Dapitan *tiangge* is just as deprived of comforts. But it satisfies one's shopping itch. Nondescript as it may seem, it can reveal exciting buys that are affordable.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

DAPITAN *tiangge*


DOG and guitar CD holders

WROUGHT-IRON plate holders with plates


WROUGHT-IRON candleholders

Pray with family, friends

MUSTARD SEED

Joseph Galdon, S.J.

PRAYING by ourselves is very good. It is perhaps the most important prayer in our lives. The Jesuit song says it very nicely: "Day by day, oh dear Lord, three things I pray—to know You more clearly, love You more dearly and follow You more nearly!" Praying three times a day can also be very good for us.

Although individual prayer is very important, praying with others, in what we call group prayer—for instance, with Mommy, Daddy, children and relatives—can also be very good. Group prayer helps us to know God better, love Him more deeply and follow Him better in our lives. Group prayer in the family is very good, but so is group prayer in the class or in the office or with a lot of our friends. It is also very good that the sisters and the priests often pray together.

How to pray together

There are several elements in praying together. The first and most important part is the opening prayer. Mommy and Daddy always asked one of us four sons to begin our prayer together with individual prayers for the whole family. It is also appropriate to begin the group prayer with a spiritual song like "Salamat sa Dios" or "Here I am, Lord. I will go, Lord, where you lead me!" or "Papuri sa Dios!" A short silence should then follow the opening song and the opening prayer as we all meditate about our holiness, and we listen to the word of God in our prayer together.

Reading of the Gospel

The next step in group prayer is the reading of a passage from the Gospel of Jesus. This could be the Gospel of the day or any other selection appropriate to the group. It is always good to choose one of the teachings of Jesus about holiness. If members of the group bring their Bible to the group prayer, they can all read the Gospel together. The reading of the Gospel is important so we can listen to the teaching of Jesus to make us holy. After the reading of the Gospel, there is a couple of minutes of silence so that each one in the prayer group can let the words of the Lord enter in his/her heart.

It is also good if each one in the prayer group shares his/her own thoughts on the teaching of Jesus after the reading of the Gospel.

This is important so all members of the group become aware of how the word of God is able to influence and improve their lives.

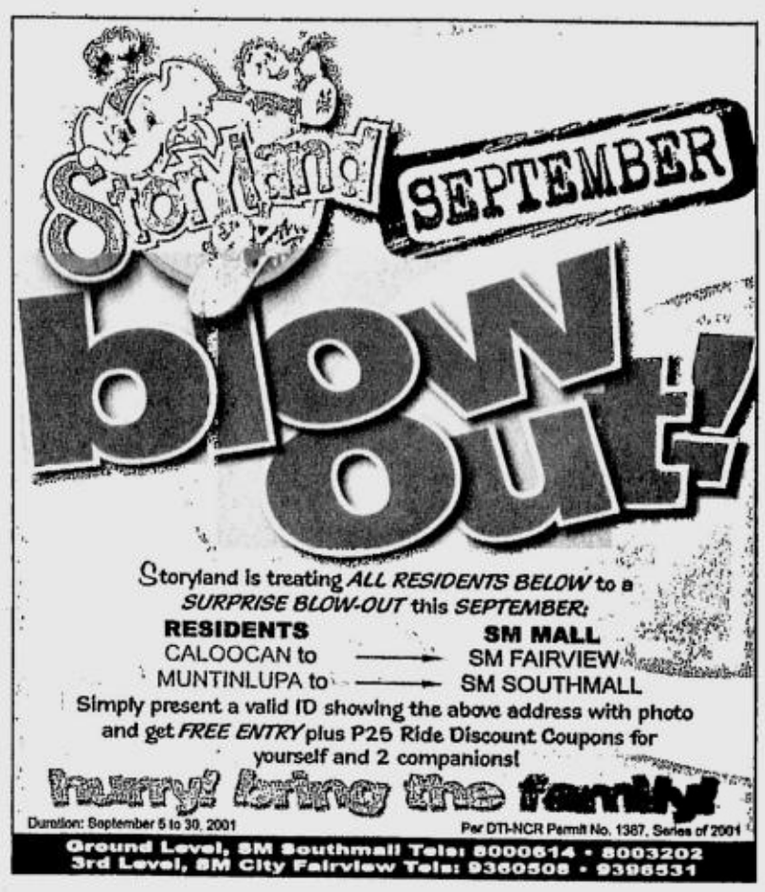
Final prayer

For the final prayer, one of the things the group can do, is pray for each one in the prayer group. It is always good to end with a prayer for love of God and one for each other in the group. A good prayer for Mommy and Daddy for us sons was always: "Holy Birthday to you!" Then the prayer group can also end with another good song.

Group praying is good

Individual and personal praying is often very good. But so is group praying with those we love. We should pray: "Here I am Lord. I have often heard You talking to me in my personal prayers, but I will also hold all others I love in my mind and heart and holiness when we pray together!" A good song to end with is always "Alleluia" and "Amen, Amen!" Thank You, Lord, for this wonderful and holy prayer together. We also agree with all You taught us in this group prayer.

A final song is very good in the group prayer. "Lord, nothing can take You away from us. Even if we sin You will forgive us and love us, and so we will love You in our individual prayer and in this group prayer as well. Alleluia!"



Lawmaker

(From page C8)

ment—often even multilevel. In fact, the marquee of a former movie house, which now houses a snack bar among others, proclaims: "Now Showing: *Wagwagan* and Avon Mojica." The weekend of Sept. 8-9 Baguio also had a *Wagwagan* Festival, heralding the Alternative Fashion Statement, at the plaza across from the public market. Behind and inside the public market are more *wagwagan* vendors either with their own stalls or with their stuff spread out on the sidewalks. The more high-end items (many of them not looking used but more like export overruns from garment makers in China and sold in Hong Kong's night market) were in the narrow multilevel establishments on Session Road while the really, really, really used items (faded and all) were being peddled in the market at rock-bottom prices.

Again, the NCCA

'Shahani unacceptable'—librarians

AS THE DULY elected officials of the Executive Council of the National Committee on Libraries and Information Services (NCLIS), which was referred to by Presidential Management Staff Head **Victoria P. Garchitorena** in her response (PDI, 09/16/01) to the article on "Bastusan at the NCCA" (PDI 09/09/01), as "a second Library Committee," we write to correct and clarify:

1. This Library Committee did not "declar(e) the election of Senator Shahani as chair of the Library Committee illegal"; it was the board of National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) that decided during its meeting on April 5, 2001 that former senator **Leticia Shahani**'s entry into the committee was in violation of rules. She was "invited" as a "library advocate" or "user" to be a member of NCLIS, then voted as an executive committee member, and finally elected as head of the committee, all on the same day, April 3. The same conclusion (that her election did not follow established process) was made in the June 7 NCCA board meeting, without chair **Jaime Laya**'s participation.

2. Also, contrary to Garchitorena's statement that "some members of the Library Committee reportedly allied with Mr. Laya... proceeded to form a second committee and elect a different chair," the composition of the Committee on Library was approved by the NCCA Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting last May 22, 2001. (Again, Mr. Laya excused himself from participating in this decision.) And with the exception of the National Library director, all members of this library committee are new, and serving their first term, unlike the old committee majority of whose members have perpetuated themselves in the NCCA since its inception in 1992. Likewise, contrary to reports, none of the new members of the "second" committee (who represent six nationwide library organizations and six exemplary library institutions) are "allied with Mr. Laya."

3. The representatives of the 12 library organizations and institutions were invited to constitute the new Library Committee and to meet with the old committee, who was headed by Senator Shahani, last June 20. But the old Committee members, whose terms were to expire on June 30 (except for three) refused to sit with the new members, and proceeded to conduct their own election on the same day, despite legal advice that it would be ruled null and void by the Board.

4. This "second Library Committee" proceeded to conduct its own election of officers only after receiving a week later an official invitation from NCCA to hold a meeting for that purpose, having been assured that the board had nullified the election of the old Committee. For the record, while the new members were aware of the interest of Senator Shahani in the committee's chairmanship, no one nominated her in absentia. This is a clear signal to the NCCA community that the Committee on Libraries and Information Services should be accorded the same respect, that is, as a committee of peers, as the other 21 national committees of artists and cultural workers in the NCCA. Therefore, a non-librarian to head a library committee is definitely unacceptable.

5. The old committee led by Senator Shahani was officially dissolved upon the expiration of the terms of majority of its members last June 30. The new committee took over and has met regularly since July. Different sectors of the library community have given it recognition and support, as manifested in the petition sent to Malacañang last month entitled "An Appeal to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo from the Library Community Affirming Our Support for the New NCLIS" which was signed by presidents and heads of 17 library organizations and institutions, and more than 200 library and information professionals.

We respectfully request that this letter be given the same courtesy as that of Secretary Garchitorena by having it published in its entirety, in the interest of fair play and unbiased reporting.

FE ANGELA M. VERSOZA
Head, National Committee on Libraries and Information Services (NCLIS); University librarian-archivist, De la Salle University Library

SALVACION M. ARLANTE
Vice Head, NCLIS; University librarian, University of the Philippines-Diliman Libraries

SARAH C. DE JESUS
Secretary, NCLIS; Director of libraries, University of the East Library

Week Wakers Upper

Lawmaker gets applause—and some boos, too

COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA

THIS lawmaker got a rare ovation when he boarded a Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight from Cebu to Manila last Sept. 24. Passengers had been told through the public address system that because it had to wait for a VIP, the flight would be delayed by 20 minutes. When that lapsed, the passengers were asked to wait for 10 more minutes. By the time the lawmaker made it, the flight was already late by 45 minutes.

When he finally boarded, the passengers greeted him with applause, happy that he made it. But the stewardess made the mistake of greeting him in the public address system and identifying him as a congressman. At that instance the passengers booed the announcement.

It appears lawmakers, particularly those from the provinces, have this habit of delaying flights, perhaps thinking that their VIP status entitles them to hold departures and inconvenience other passengers. On the contrary, as elected leaders, they are expected to set the right example. Pressing engagements and tight schedules don't excuse them from boarding on time. In the case of the Metro Manila lawmaker, he could have avoided incurring the ire of many people had he taken the next flight instead.

At last, a punctual president

PRESIDENT **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** attended Ballet Manila's "Romeo and Juliet" last Friday at the CCP. The President arrived 30 minutes before the program so that the production started promptly—at 8:05 p.m. Before the start of the ballet, she was acknowledged by the CCP and was given a warm applause and even a standing ovation by the audience.

Designer **Pitoy Moreno** couldn't help but remark that the President seemed to have taken after her mom, the late former First Lady **Eva Macapagal**, who during the presidency of her husband **Diosdado**, was unfailingly punctual and prompt. He said it was only during the time of **Ferdinand Marcos**, and then later, the presidency of **Joseph Estrada**, when coming terribly late became fashionable and a punishment for early birds.

High-class thievery

MORE on the spate of break-ins in this exclusive village. Reports have it that in just a space of a few days, thieves ripped off three houses, including the residences of a very visible power couple and an Asia-Pacific ambassador. Suspicion points to the workers of a golf-course construction project nearby. In fact, a suspect who was arrested in connection with one of the burglaries was a worker in the golf course. When the police checked, he was found to have a criminal record.

The golf-course management should perhaps institute measures to secure both the project and the houses around it. It is galling for instance that the construction company hired its workers without as much as asking them to secure clearances from the NBI.

Let's cut a deal

HERE'S A thought. Since the United States is so gung-ho in going after international terrorists and they need their former bases in the country in order to properly bomb the daylights out of this modern-day enemy, we could cut our own sweet deal with the Americans, much like the Pakistanis did.

Uncle Sam can use Clark and Subic and whatever else port they need, but they must clean up after themselves, not only their new mess, but the toxic ones they left behind nearly 10 years ago. Yes, they should be made to clean up the poison they left at Clark, Subic, Sangley, John Hay, Poro Point and whatever part of Philippine soil they had previously parked their weapons of war.

If the Pakistanis reportedly got their $3 billion debt to the US written off, the least our government could do is force the Americans to clean up the toxic waste that, as it is, will wreak havoc on the health of Filipinos for generations to come.

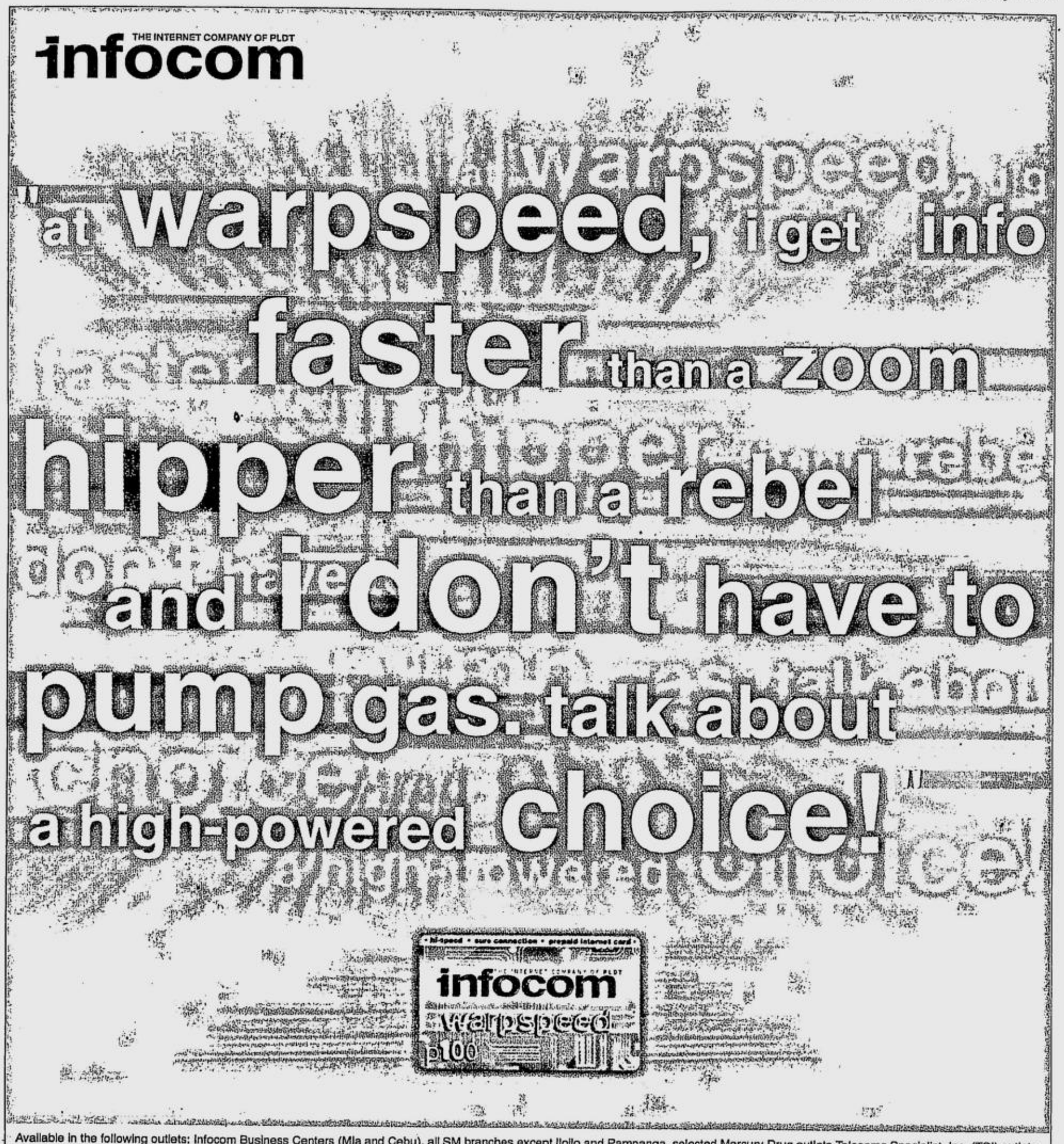
PopCom, presscon pooper

IT does not seem so surprising now that our population program seems to lack direction after what happened last Thursday. It seems that the agency in charge of supervising its implementation, the Commission on Population, cannot even manage a simple thing like a press conference. PopCom, through Secretary **Dante Canlas** who, as head of the National Economic and Development Authority, is chair of the commission's board, invited the media to the launch of the 2001 State of World Population Report at the Manila Diamond Hotel. Canlas invited the media to the "launch (10 a.m. Ballroom, ground floor) and press briefing (11:30 a.m., Ruby Room, second floor)," Sept. 26. But when media people showed up, the hotel staff told them that there were no such events there. The INQUIRER got no messages about a change of venue. Neither did the other media that showed up at MDH. Calling up Canlas proved frustrating as PopCom personnel did not even have his phone number. And when we finally got the number after being passed on from one person to another, it was either busy or there was no answer.

Bazaar fever in Baguio

THE MAN in a barrel is still there but he is no longer the top-selling souvenir among people who go to Baguio. The summer capital of the Philippines is now the *wagwagan* center (what is known down south as *ukay-ukay*) of the country. Every other store on Session Road and the street parallel to it fronting Burnham Park is virtually a *wagwagan* establish-

LAWMAKER/ p.C7



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Tatluhan ang usapan.

HOW 3-PARTY CALLING WORKS

Situation: You (Party A) are engaged in a phone conversation with Party B.

To call a third party (Party C):
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2. Party B is automatically put "on hold".
3. Dial the telephone number of Party C.

A. To effect conferencing when Party C answers:
1. Quickly press and release PLUNGER, then press 3.

B. To return to Party B if the line of Party C is busy or no one answers (continuous ringing):
1. Quickly press and release PLUNGER. You are now re-connected to Party B.

C. To alternate between Parties B & C:
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TERRY Felix (left) manages Carolina's outlet on Recto Street.

In search of the best fabrics and accessories? Follow the country's top couturiers toward Divisoria

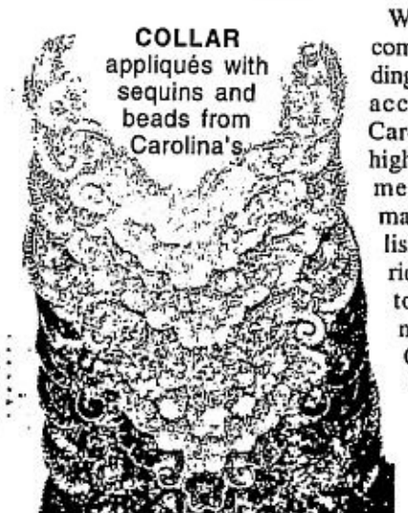
Divi is still where it's at

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

DOTTED with old and new specialty stores, the busy intersection of Divisoria is where professional shoppers flock to get the best buys in food, fashion and home décor. This area is as famous as the most luxurious shopping malls in Manila, but to your surprise, you will find that most high-quality commodities, particularly fabrics and fashion accessories, are sold here at reasonable prices.

The key to dressing appropriately is being stylishly elegant in a dress with a flattering silhouette in a color that's suitable to the setting. And choosing the right fabrics is an important factor. In this, Divisoria is of great help.

Carolina's

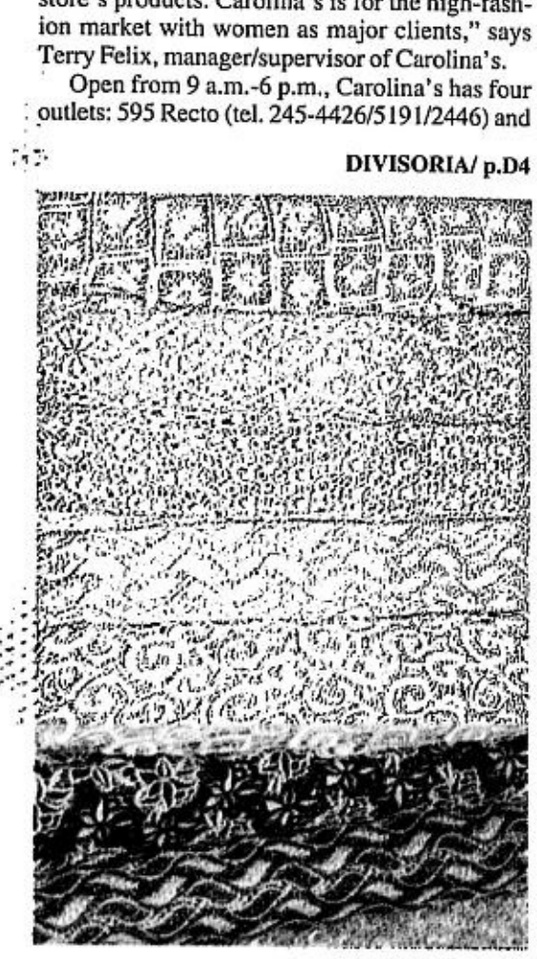


COLLAR appliqués with sequins and beads from Carolina's

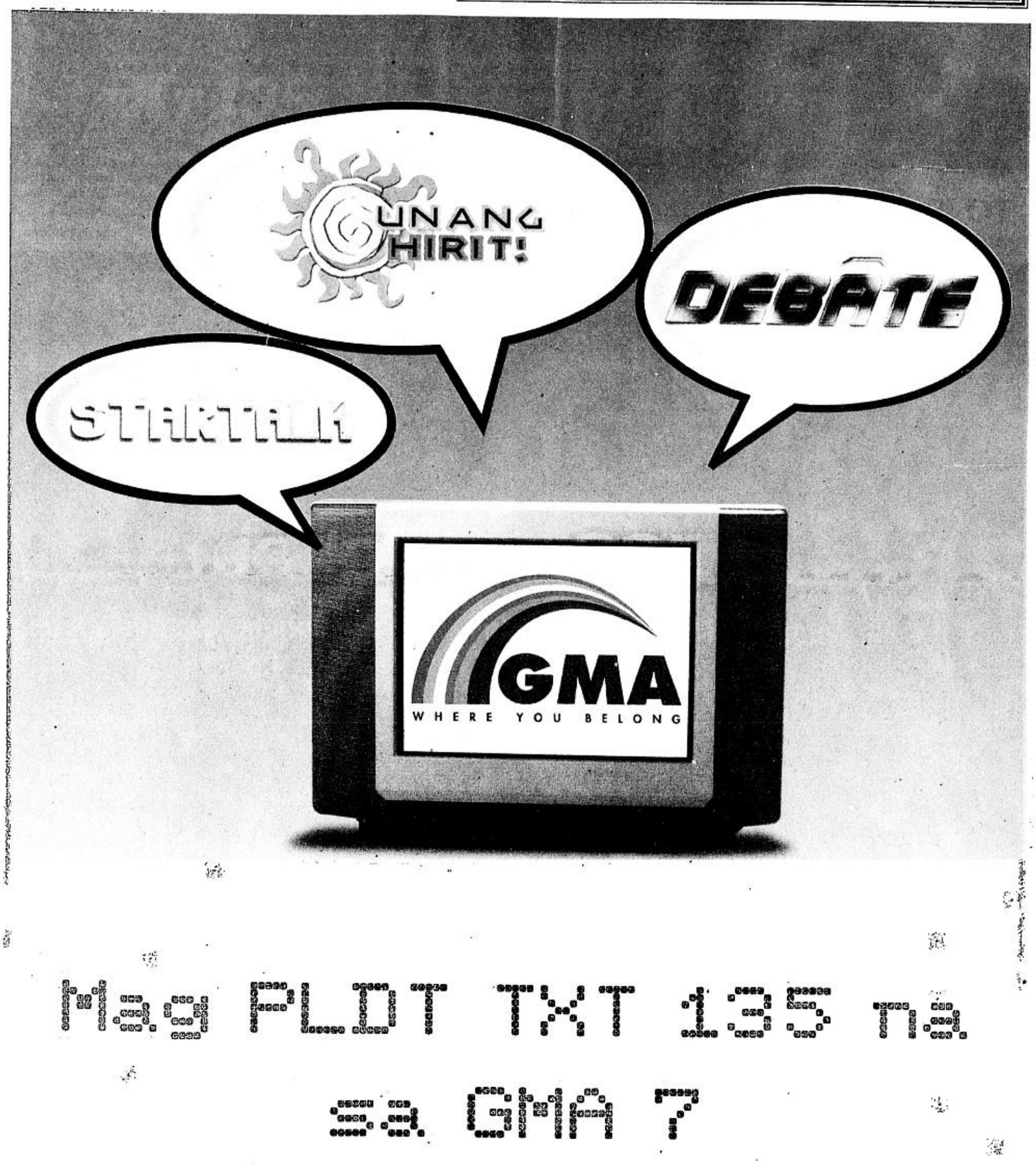
When it comes to wedding and gown accessories, Carolina's is highly recommended by many established couturiers like Pitoy Moreno, Cesar Gaupo, Ben Farrales, Danilo Franco and Eddie Baddeo. "Ninety-nine percent of the country's fashion designers patronize our store's products. Carolina's is for the high-fashion market with women as major clients," says Terry Felix, manager/supervisor of Carolina's.

Open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Carolina's has four outlets: 595 Recto (tel. 245-4426/5191/2446) and

DIVISORIA/ p.D4



CAROLINA'S heavy chemical lace



Ang una sa landline texting ay may bagong pakulo para sa inyo! I-dial lang ang 1 3 5 – 3 sa PLDT phones n'yo and follow the voice prompts para makasali sa mga surveys, bumati on-air at makigulo lalo sa usapan.

PLDT TXT 135 If you can't say it, txt it.

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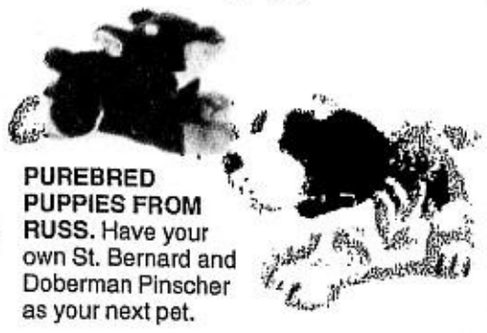
FEEL IT! Hiccup and Whispie are soft and cuddly dogs made from chamois material.



PUREBRED PUPPIES FROM RUSS. Have your own St. Bernard and Doberman Pinscher as your next pet.

Look who's walking the dogs

MADMAN Martin Nievera enjoys a stroll with Russ' newest line of Purebred Puppies. Floppy beanbags with embroidered collars identify each breed and comes with its own story hang tag. Among the choices are the Pug, Rottweiler, Cocker Spaniel, Doberman Pinscher, St. Bernard and Dalmatian.

Gift Gate has another puppy parade with Russ's Luv Pets collection, with six choices—Browning, Keats, Emerson, Shelley, Austen and Thoreau.

Russ also has the Floppies Collection. As the name implies, these dogs simply... flop! They are made from soft chamois material, while the Floppy Puppies with their cute and furry ears are made from luster silk.

Available at all Gift Gate stores nationwide.

GIMLET and Daquiri are Floppy Puppies. Never mind if they always sleep... They are simply adorable!

SIT BOYS! Martin gives training the Purebred Pups from Russ a shot.

Don't be dazzled by offers of incredible prizes

THE CONSUMER
Marietta Velasco Giron

ANNIE S. Cruz of LGV, QC, related her experience with sales gimmicks that start with you-won-a-prize announcement. Incredible prizes of these widespread marketing tricks range from appliances to free trip to Europe and, more recently, a car worth P1.6 million. Until now, however, we have yet to hear of someone winning the touted prizes.

Cruz said: "Last Aug. 25, I received a call from a man who informed me that out of numerous names, I was chosen to be one of six finalists who can win a car worth P1.6 million. I was supposed to go to SM Megamall at noon to attend a 30-minute presentation of the company's product or service, after which, I could play some sort of game and win prizes."

Cruz, who did not fall for the ploy, also said, "I scanned the raffle ticket and read that the prizes included a trip for two to Boracay, 15 pieces of Premiere 651 camera and 20 gift checks from Chili's worth P500 each. There was no mention whatsoever of the P1.6-million car at stake."

She added that the caller was the same man who approached her two weeks before the call at SM Megamall, telling her she had won the day's prize in the contest called "greenmania." Her prize for wearing something green was a raffle ticket for a free trip to Boracay. She wrote her name, address and telephone number on the ticket. When the man asked details about her credit cards, Cruz said she left. But the man already knew her telephone number because she provided the other information.

She warns PDI readers: "Before you join up, know what you are getting into. Bring somebody with you and do not be afraid to say no if you do not want to buy their products or services. Don't ever give out any personal information and details about your credit cards."

Lemon car

DR. Stella Guerrero Manalo of UP-PGH asked us about the defective vehicle she and her husband bought. She said even when it was brand new, the car emitted thick black smoke, had problems with the turbo charger and electrical system, and conked out once in the middle of South Luzon Expressway.

Nine months after purchase, the steering wheel had to be fixed at the service center because of a disturbing clicking sound. It also had to be turned several times before it could be moved the right way. After it was supposedly fixed, the wheel remained stiff and there were problems with alignment. As it was still covered with warranty, the service center again repaired the defects.

But the dreaded accident happened on Sept. 10 when the steering wheel snapped while the car was moving at about 80-100 km per hour on C-5 highway. Dr. Manalo and her driver were lucky they were not hurt in the accident. Moreover, there were no cars close by. A grassy area prevented a more serious disaster.

In our opinion, Dr. Manalo and her husband should sue the car dealer for selling a defective vehicle and for endangering their lives. They should hire a lawyer to pursue the case or they could consult the Department of Trade and Industry-National Capital Rregion. Address inquiry to Director Luwina Enecio of DTI-NCR.

Missing records at NCSO

SOME time ago, the National Statistics Office issued a press release announcing that "securing certifications of birth, death, marriage and no-marriage can now be done with a simple phone call."

Lina Vergara of Los Baños, Laguna found out, however, that that was exactly what it was—a press release. She wrote: "I brought the yellowing copies of my birth and marriage certificates to the National Statistics Office in Quezon City to have it authenticated. I had to stand in a long line. (When it was my turn), I was given two application forms to fill out, one for birth certificate and one for marriage certificate.

"At Window S, I showed my yellowing certificates to the woman there. She said the marriage certificate was a personal copy and not government-issued certificates. As for my birth certificate, after checking her files, she told me the signatures of the persons in my certificate were not in their files. I was told to get new ones."

Bothered and bewildered, Ms Vergara nonetheless did as she was told. She paid the fees and waited 10 days to get the new certificates. Ten days later, she received two certificates saying there was no record that she was ever married or was ever born.

"I have the original copies, so it hardly matters. I can mail these and just pray and hope they get returned to me."

No reason to celebrate

JOURNALIST Linda Bolido says Globe Handyphone postpaid subscribers may have no reason to celebrate the company's announcement that it is not halving just yet their free text allowance. The letter she got from Globe stated: "Your free text messages per month will be applied to text messages sent from Globe Handyphone to Globe Handyphone." This suggests that whether or not you use up your free text allowance in a month, you still pay for messages to non-Globe phones. In effect, the subscriber's free text allowance, unless s/he only sends messages to Globe users, is actually much less than what the company claims.

Send consumer complaints and comments to mgiron@csi.com.ph

Meet Every *Body*'s Hero

THE SMART Cinema Club invites you to watch

OPENS IN CINEMAS OCTOBER 10

www.osmosisjones.com

MTRCB Rating: GP

Join the Smart Cinema Club now and be every body's hero with the Cinema Club Quest!
Discover one cell of a guy with Osmosis Jones' exclusive movie logos, picture messages, group graphics, screen savers & games!

Official Osmosis Jones logos

ojazzyshoot (Picture Message/Screen Saver)	ojcoolthraxl (Operator Logo/Group Graphic)	ojtitle (Picture Message/Screen Saver)	ojdrixflavor1 (Operator Logo/Group Graphic)	ojactiontitle (Picture Message/Screen Saver)

Display inside the body adventures with the official Osmosis Jones graphics. All these are available only to Smart Cinema Club members, so join now by keying in **JOIN CINEMA**. If you need more information on different keywords, key in **HELP** <command>. Send all commands to 239.

To Get Osmosis Jones...	Key In...
Logo List of Keywords	LOGO OJ and send to 239
Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239
Group Graphics Keywords	GROUP OJ and send to 239
Group Graphics*	GROUP <keyword> and send to 239
Picture Messages List of Keywords	PIC OJ and send to 239

To Get Osmosis Jones...	Key In...
Picture Messages	PIC <keyword> and send to 239
Screen Savers List Of Keywords	SAVEROJ and send to 239
Screen Savers**	SAVER <keyword> and send to 239
To play the Quest Game	PLAY <OJ/OJ2/OJ3> and send to 239
To invite a friend	INVITE <your friend's #> and send to 239

All text messages sent are P2.50 each.

*Available on selected Nokia handsets only **Available on Nokia 3310, 3330, and 8250
Note: If you're already playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first.

Want an inside the body adventure? Play the Cinema Club Quest!
In this game, you are a rookie white blood cell on a mission to stop a rash. Goodluck, detective!

Start your mission!
Key-in PLAY <OJ/OJ2/OJ3> and send to 239.

Sample quest question:
Ambushed thrax! But he has Drix as hostage. Thrax starts his way back into the colon. You and Drix exchange glances. What do u tell him?

1. Stay strong. I will find you.
2. Fire ur cannon n d air
3. Xchange places w Drix
4. Bye-bye. No use f we both die, right?

To answer; simply press REPLY and key in the number and send to 239.

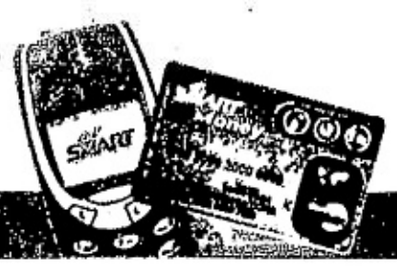
Promo Mechanics:

1. From Sept 29 - Oct. 2, 2001, all Smart Cinema Club members who download a logo, picture message, group graphic or screen saver get one computer-generated point each. The top 100 Cinema Club members with the highest points collected will win two free premiere movie passes each for Osmosis Jones at Robinsons Movieworld - Galleria, Cinema 2, on Oct. 5, 2001, 8:00 p.m. To know the number of points accumulated, key in DPOINTS and send to 239.
2. Smart Cinema Club winners will be notified via text message or a voice call to their registered cellfone number only.
3. Smart Money cardholders who use their card to buy any movie ticket at Robinsons Movieworld - Galleria from Sept. 28 - Oct. 2 are entitled to a pair of Osmosis Jones premiere tickets.
4. Winners of both promos can claim the prizes on the night of the premiere, Oct. 5, 2001, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Smart Cinema Club Booth in Robinsons Galleria, near Cinema 2.
   A. Smart Cinema Club winners must present their active Smart GSM cellfone with the winning SIM number and valid I.D. w/ photo.
   B. Smart Money winners must present their Smart Money receipt (proof of purchase) used to purchase movie ticket/s in Robinsons Galleria from Sept. 28 to Oct. 2. They can avail themselves of the promo only once.
5. Promos are valid for GMA residents only.

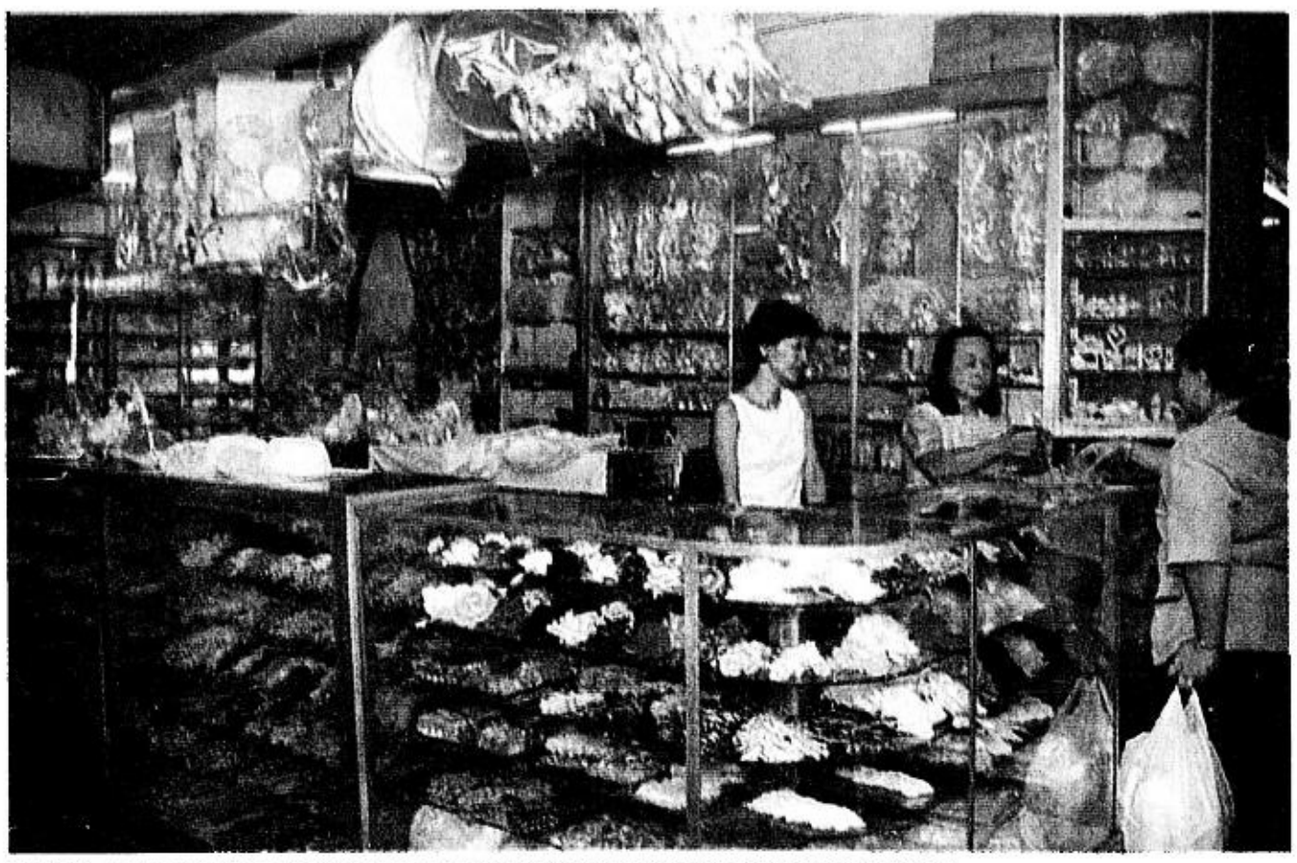
In cooperation with: Powered by: Information Gateway

SMART Simply Amazing!

See flyers for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3128 Series of 2001.



SMART Money Use your Smart Money MasterCard to pay for movie tickets at the counter and get two free movie passes!



LILY Yao (left) and Eleanor Dayondon man the 55-year-old Ideal Trading on Tabora Street.

VICKY Chan's stores on Ylaya Street sells fine fabrics for weddings, debuts and other formal occasions.

Divi is still where it's at

(From page D1)

Yangco, Prime Block in Divisoria, and in SM Megamall B and Quad Makati.

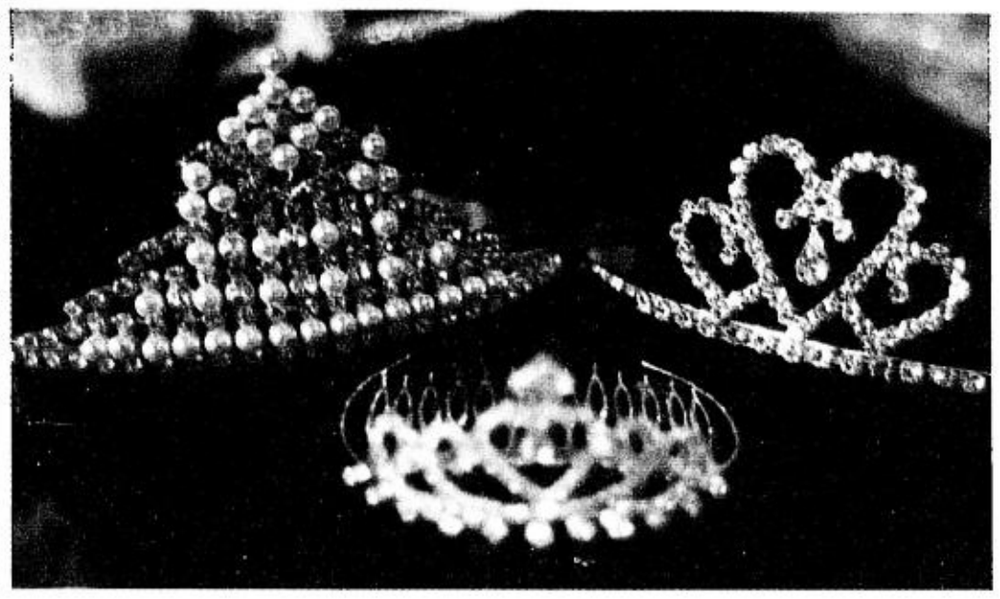
Since 1971, it has been selling accessories imported from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Korea and fabrics from Italy, which are 30 percent cheaper than those sold in malls. It offers organza appliqué (P100/150/250), collar appliqué with sequins and beads (P175), front collar appliqué with beads (P350), gown appliqué with beads and sequins (P100-150), rose lamé (P80/150/200), gold and silver rhinestones for bridal gowns and formal wear (P350/yard), loose rhinestones (P3.50 each), crowns with rhinestones and pearls (P450/500/600), trimmings with sequins, pearls and beads (P300/meter), sequins and pearls (P90/meter), flower designs with pearls, sequins and beads (P450/meter), blue spangle trimmings (P300/meter), tassel beads (120/meter), lace organza (P300/meter), rosette satin (P120/meter) and flower organza (P330/meter).

Its laces, which are all imported from the US, include: heavy chemical lace (P650 and 950/yard), two-tone (P1,200), corded beaded (P1,200), satin cut work (P750), Spanish lace (P290), embroidered lace (P950) and corded metallic Spanish (P1,200).

Vicky Chan's shop

Vicky Chan offers fine fabrics at affordable prices. Established in 1983, her shop is located at the Mabuhay Textile Market building, Pasilyo C, 5 Ylaya St., Divisoria, Binondo (tel. 245-0147/0154).

Open from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Chan's textiles are mostly imported from Taiwan and Korea. Chan acquired her business savvy while studying marketing at the University of the East and at the same time helping her aunt in running a textile store in Divisoria. Her husband Rudy is also in the garments business.



CAROLINA'S tiaras designed with pearls and rhinestones

When it comes to weddings and debuts, the shop's bestsellers are acetate satin (P55-65/yard), tulle (P17-120), plain organza (P55-60), frosted organza (P65-70), duchess satin (P150), shantung alaskin (P150-170), cationic shantung (P170-180), linea shantung (P170-180), cationic chiffon (P55-75), satin (P65-70), laces (P150-1,000), sequins tulle (P400-450), tulle (P17-120), plain *jusi* (P100-120) and barong (P450 and above, depending on type of fabric).

"There are some stores here in Divisoria that sell the same fabrics at lower prices. Buyers, on the other hand, who patronize such items, usually can't distinguish which ones are of good quality," Chan says.

With client designers such as Barge Ramos, Frederick Peralta, Inno Sotto, Loretto, Ben Farrales, Gener Gozum and majority of the Fashion Designers Association of the Phils., Chan does not encounter any problem when it comes to choosing appropriate fabrics for certain occasions. But she usually has a hard time "pleasing" walk-in customers because they don't know what they're looking for. Sometimes, she shows a fashion catalog to give them design ideas. Or she calls one of her couturier friends for consultation.

Compared to the fabrics sold in malls, Chan's are more affordable. Geena or pongee for lining, for example, which is sold for P25-28 at Chan's store, is sold at P50 in most boutique shops.

"This year's sales are fluctuating. September is supposedly the start of our peak months. But most businesses here have been affected by our bad economy. Our markup has been greatly reduced," Chan says.

Benson's

Generally, Filipino males look more attractive in the barong Tagalog. And on the more practical side, you can always wear a *piña* barong again. Well-tailored pants are the most appropriate for the barong Tagalog.

Should one decide to go for a more continental look for his wedding, he can opt for a tuxedo or suit.

For the groom and his best men or the debutante's escort, Benson Kua proffers excellent textiles for tuxedos, suits and uniforms.

His shop, which is simply called Benson's, is located at Divine Mart building, Pasilyo S, 14 Ylaya St., Divisoria, Binondo (tel. 243-4414). Open from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., it showcases fabrics imported from the US, Indonesia, Italy, France, Japan and Switzerland.

Its bestsellers include cashmere wool (P1,200/yard), cashmere silk (P500-600), pure linen wool (P500-600), cotton twill (P120-150), cotton linen (P120-160) and flannel wool (P600-700). The store's items, Kua says, are 30-40 percent lower than those sold in malls.

"I even give suggestions on combinations of colors and fabrics if the customer is in a quandary on what to buy. Or I recommend them to my client designers such as Frederick Peralta, Inno Sotto, Nolie Hans and Greg Centeno," Kua says. The store's peak season is before and after Chinese Christmas and its lean months are July and August.

Ideal Trading

Owned by Eutiquia Moreno, Ideal Trading, located at 824 Tabora St., Yangco Market, Pasilyo D (tel. 242-7407), has been in business since 1946. Formerly called Ideal Lace Center, its initial products were zippers, threads, garters, laces and buttons. "It was only in 1965 that the store added new items. In 1997, it still sold zippers, threads and garters but now, these have been phased out," says Eleanor Dayondon, sister of Moreno, who now manages the store together with niece Lily Yao.

Open from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Ideal Trading offers bridal accessories from Batangas, Novaliches, Bicol and Caloocan. Some of the bou-

IDEAL Trading's hair accessories and rose organza

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"It's the Life-Style Odyssey."

"The furniture event of the year."

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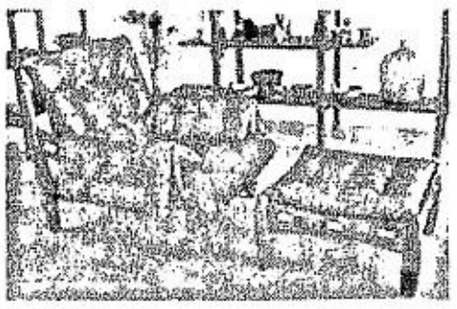
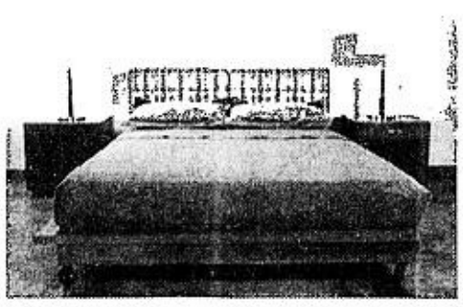


1975 Habitat opens. The Style Odyssey begins, we introduce the classic, ridiculously comfortable Sheriff chair. We still make this "ultra-lounge" chair today. Come on in and sit on it!



1990 Enter the Modern. The Prescott bed set was introduced. Sleek, clean lined, practical with or without those wheels!

2000 Arrives. The "bug" came and went, but... our Ashanti became a steady favorite in those heady times.

The Style Odyssey

Habitat 26 YEARS

The LifeStyle Center Sept.28 to Oct.11

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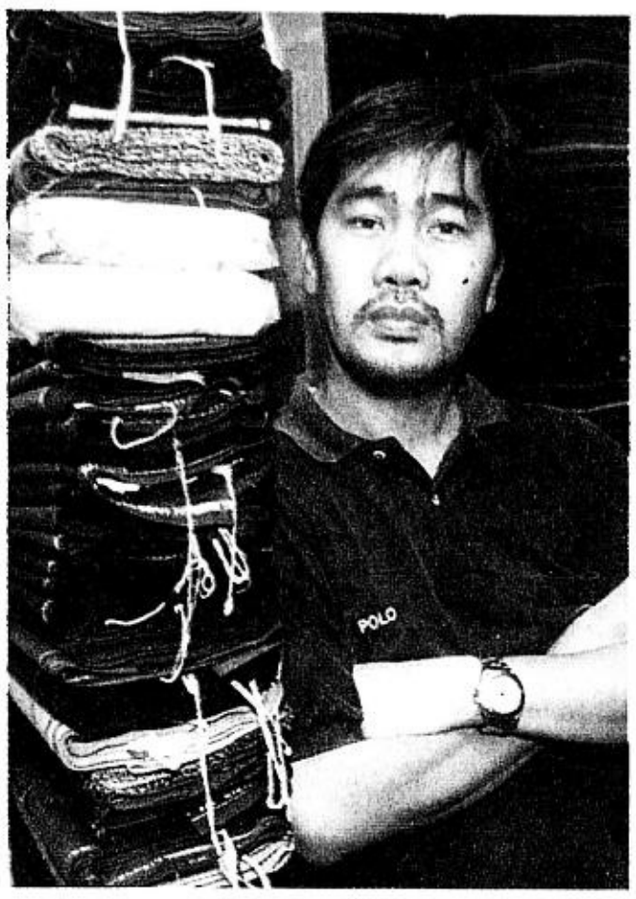
quets and headdresses are designed by Moreno while some of the veils are done by Dayondon.

The store boasts of a wide variety of items used for weddings and debuts: basket of flower girl (P30-100), bridal bouquet (P100-500), entourage's bouquet (P35-50), small corsage for debutante or bride's entourage (P35), big corsage which is also used as hair or gown accessory (P125), *aras* (P50-150), pearl crown (P100-300), rhinestone crown (P200-2,000), laced hats (P50-55), embroidered and chiffonel fan (P120 and P150), wedding cushion (P100-600), boxed heart cushion (P1,200), veil (P50/ 75/120/250/480), rose organza (P48/58/70), tassel cord (P120-240) and headdress for children (P35 and 45).

"We don't sell many wedding giveaways because people nowadays prefer native products with *capiz* designs. We have few ceramic giveaways here, but you can find more of these at *bangketas*, which are cheaper. But our items are definitely lower by 30-40 percent than those sold in malls, especially with wholesale orders," Yao says.

E-mail the author at rburgos @inquirer.com.ph



BENSON Kua's shop inside Divine Mart on Ylaya Street showcases textiles which are excellent for tuxedos and suits.

Blooms unlimited

DESIGNER Blooms recently opened its wholesale outlet in its central office on East Service Road, South Expressway, near the Sucat Interchange. The new showcase of imported artificial flowers will cater to floral designers, interior decorators and office and hospitality establishments.

"This is a feel-good store. People want to have attractive flowers around them. We know that there are others out there who buy in huge quantities to make arrangements for customers. They do not have the need to purchase in volumes that would require a container, but it is definitely more than what is normally bought from our retail shops," says Designer Blooms president Rica Garcia. "The trained staff can assist in putting together the product orders of each buyer,"

Anticipating the demand for the upcoming holidays, the outlet offers a range of Christmas décor, inlcuding bare Christmas trees, swags, jabots and wreaths.

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BEACH bumming

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.

PURARAN was the first of three beaches that my family visited during a trip to Catanduanes in August to attend a *bonyag* (baptism) in Baras, my mother's hometown. The *bonyag* coincided with the town fiesta.

The visit to the beach came as a break from feasting on steamed fish, *chop suey, morcon* and *buko* salad at Tia Glor's house, a bungalow beside the courtyard of the St. Lawrence the Martyr Church.

After a 20-minute ride on a pickup, our group of six reached a cluster of houses some 100 meters above sea level. Below us lay a stretch of white sand and the blue waters of the Pacific.

A short drive down a concrete access road brought us to the beach.

My daughter Mayi, all of 20 months old, shrieked with delight the moment she touched the water. We did not plan on letting her go into the water, but we changed our mind so as not to disappoint her.

And so Mayi experienced her first dip in the ocean with only a diaper on. She joined three village children whose father was spearfishing nearby.

The water was so clear one could see the tiny shells at the bottom. It was low tide.

As I watched the children frolic in the water, along came a Puraran resident lugging a yellow surfboard. He had just finished riding the waves and was on his way home.

Surfing came to Puraran, where the waves break on the coral reef some 200 meters from the shore, in the late 1970s. It was introduced by Australian national Mark Lawless, who "discovered" the village as a surfing area.

Since then, 20 Puraran residents have picked up the sport. Two of them have become champions. One won in the Cloud 9 surfing competition in Siargao, Surigao del Norte, and the other in the Quick Silver surfing contest in La Union.

Edgar Tanael is typical of a villager who learned surfing from a visitor. He said Peter Sutton, also Australian, taught him the sport in 1981 when he was 13 years old. The Australian left him a surfboard.

The surfing season, which starts in September and ends in November, draws surfers from such countries as Australia, the United States, Germany, Holland, Finland and Japan, according to Tanael.

They get excited when a storm is coming. "Foreigners want a low-pressure area because of the big waves it brings," Tanael said.

Some foreigners plot the path of a low-pressure area even if it is still in the Marianas, 1,000 kilometers away.

"Guests go to Virac (the capital town 30 km away) and use the Internet to get the latest weather reports," Tanael said.

Some go to Puraran a week before a typhoon is expected to pass the island-province. "When the typhoon doesn't come, they get heartbroken," Tanael said. But when it does, they enjoy waves of 8-10 feet.

Not that waves are the only attraction of Puraran. Peace and quiet and a stunning view work their magic on visitors.

At the time of our visit, there were a number of foreigners in Puraran, including an Australian who was on the flight that took me, my wife, daughter and mother from Manila to Virac. Another guest, a Japanese, had been staying at the beach for two months. There was also an American from Hawaii and a Briton, who brought his Filipino wife and kids.

"They just love the peace and quiet here," said Tanael as he showed me a well-thumbed copy of the "Lonely Planet" travel guide on the Philippines, which describes Puraran as a surfing site.

When not surfing, visitors can go fishing and snorkeling. Those who go trawling can catch *turingan, durado, malasugi* and barracuda. Inland, they can visit the Gigmoto Falls and the Balakay caves of Baras.

Despite the competition from other resorts in the country, foreigners enamored of Puraran don't want the place "developed."

Their wish has largely been fulfilled. More than 20 years after a foreigner first rode its waves, Puraran remains idyllic. There are no honky-tonk bars. No speedboats. No swimming pools. No peddlers.

The only structures are the three huts on the beach and a number of cottages. A volleyball net is strung between two bamboo poles.

Puraran's small community of fishermen and farmers relocated to the side of a mountain, along the road overlooking the ocean, after huge waves spawned by a typhoon demolished their dwellings.

The restaurant that a Japanese businessman built in the 1980s on a rocky outcrop was not spared. Neither were the first cottages, which had to be rebuilt farther from the shore.

Of the cottages, seven are operated by the Majestic Beach Resort and four by the Puting Baybay Resort. "These are not enough to cater to the tourists," said Domingo Joson Jr., a visitor from Manila who was on his "second honeymoon."

A room costs P300 per person daily. With meals, the fee goes up to P500. Short orders at the canteen, named the Majestic Restaurant by foreigners, are reasonably priced. A pancake costs P40; an omelet, P35; a cheese-and-tomato sandwich, P25; San Miguel Beer, P20; Coke, P15; and tea, P10.

How does one get to Puraran? From Virac, one can take a jeep bound for Gigmoto for P25. Hiring a tricycle costs between P350 and P500. To get to Virac from Manila, one can take a plane for P1,728. Asian Spirit flies to the town daily.

Our next stop after Puraran was Igang Beach in Virac, a 15-minute drive from the commercial center. This time we were a group of 18, half of whom were children, including a newly christened baby girl.

The beach has a single hut, sitting under a canopy of trees, where we deposited our things. This time Mayi was wearing her fuschia swimsuit.

Not far from us were several men casting a *panke* (net). Like in Puraran, waves break on a coral reef some 200 meters from the shore of Igang.

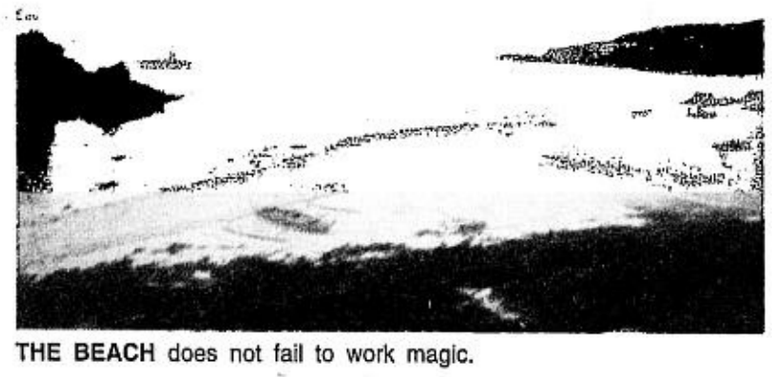
While we were frolicking in the water that afternoon a ferry appeared on the horizon. It was on its way to the port of Virac from Tabaco, Albay.

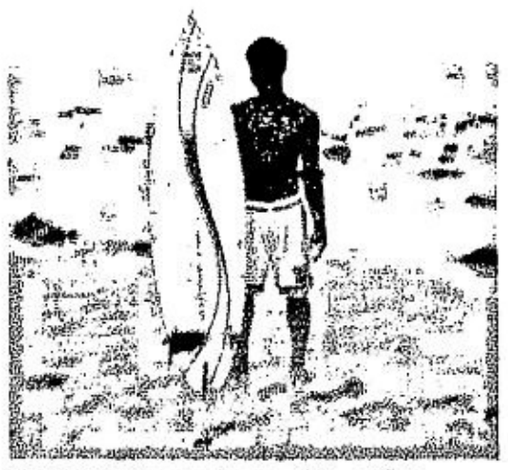
The next day we hied off to a white-sand beach lined with coconut trees in Marilima, also in Virac, a 25-minute drive from the commercial center.

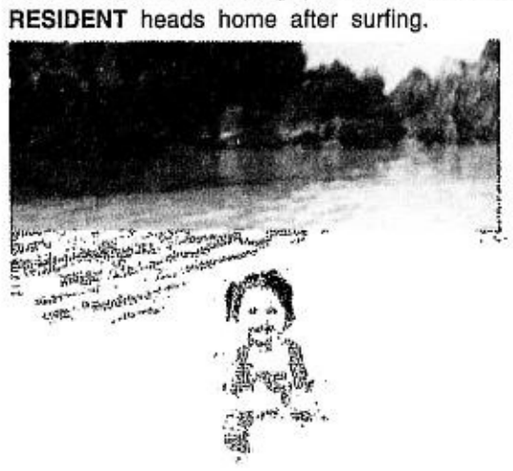
We were offered fresh *buko* juice as welcome refreshment at the Kosta Alcantara Beach Resort.

The resort has an imposing two-story rest house with an *anahaw* roof. The rest house has a bar, a dining hall with hardwood tables and chairs, a chapel, air-conditioned rooms and a terrace.

The resort's biggest attraction is the majestic view of Mt. Mayon across the water.


THE BEACH does not fail to work magic.


RESIDENT heads home after surfing.


LITTLE Mayi enjoys her first dip.

LET'S DIG IN

Educators and students prepare to dig into a meter-long *bibingka* during ceremonies at Fort Santiago in Intramuros. Shown from left with student representatives are Noemi Cancio, president of the Council of Hotel and Restaurant Educators of the Philippines; Dominador Ferrer, head of the Intramuros Administration; Dean Amparo Santos, president of the Tourism Educators of schools, Colleges and Universities; Domestic Tourism Director Cynthia Lazo; Prof. Zenaida Cruz of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines; Assistant Tourism Secretary Teresa Martinez; and International Tourism Director Ting de los Reyes. *Story on next page*

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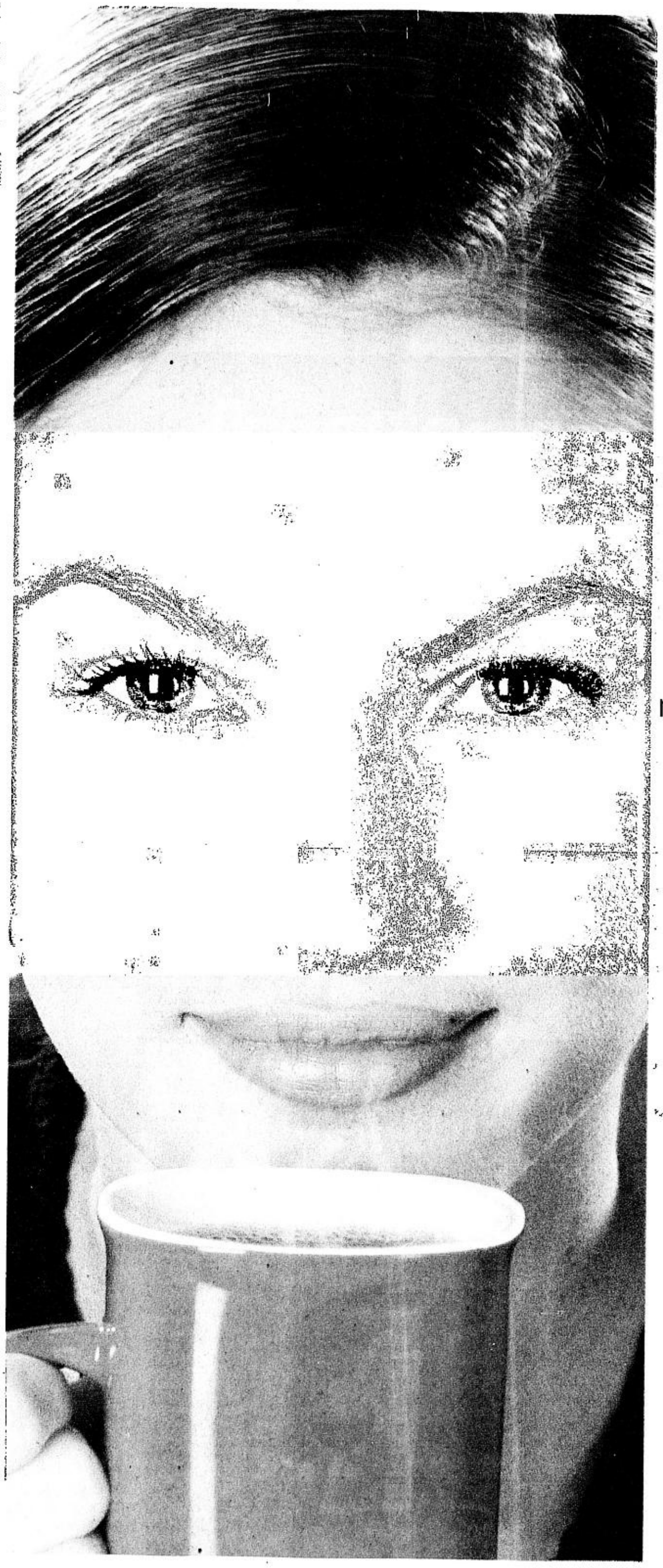
For DTI-NCR Permit no. 3204 Series of 2001

Youth urged to spread 'culture of tourism'

A DAYLONG celebration to formally mark Tourism Week started off on a festive mood Thursday in Intramuros, with the participation of students enrolled in tourism-related courses.

Leaders of the education sector pledged to implement measures to involve the youth in programs aimed at developing a national "culture of tourism."

In a phone patch from Seoul where he was attending the World Tourism Organization general assembly, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon addressed the gathering and cited the importance of youth involvement in the project.



TRAVEL BRIEFS

Tour packages

MSA Educational Tours and Travel (MSA-ETT), a new company engaged in innovative ways of education, is offering "one-stop-shop" convenience to students who wish to travel around the country and abroad.

It arranges for the traveler all details from itinerary planning and travel consultation to international and domestic airline processing including ticketing, visa assistance, travel insurance and passport processing. Non-students may also be accommodated.

MSA-ETT is offering special holiday packages in October, including a 7-day-6-night tour of Bangkok, Singapore and Hong Kong for $548 per person, and a two-city Australia tour for 8 days and 7 nights for $799 per person.

Call 817-1646 for more information.

* * *

SEE the world's finest examples of rice terraces through Causeway Tours' 3-day-2-night trip to Banaue, Bontoc and Sagada on Oct. 5-7.

Banaue, a grand setting surrounded by terraced mountainsides, is the focal point of the trip.

For inquiries and reservations, call 853-8652, 853-8728 or 0917-3428664.

Music festival

THE MACAO International Music Fest is ongoing until Oct. 21 at the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR), dubbed Asia's little Europe.

The popular Tan Dun, musical scorer of the famed film "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," will conduct well-known Portuguese singer Sara Tavares at a celebrity concert featuring Broadway musicals.

For the first time, Verdi's "La Traviata" will be shown four times this year with Svetlana Vassileva as lead and Warren Mok, the festival's artistic director, as lead tenor.

There are also free events for the public to enjoy. Among these are the outdoor jazz concerts by the French Quinte & Sens on Oct. 13-14 at the Dr. Carlos Assumpcao Park, near the trendy cafés of the Kun Iam promenade.

On Oct. 7, a free concert in the Macao Cathedral will feature the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra. The equally famous National Opera of China Chorus will be featured at the Gounod's St. Cecilia Mass.

The world-famous Vienna Boys Choir will also render a free concert at the St. Dominic's Church on Oct. 11, while the Haydn String Quartet will take the limelight on Oct. 14.

Cantonese opera singer Chen Xiao Feng, now a US resident, will give a charity concert for the Tung Siu Tong Foundation on Oct. 19. The Macao Chinese Orchestra under Ding Jia Lin and guest soloists will accompany him.

The Shanghai Ballet will dance excerpts from such favorites as "Sleeping Beauty," "Swan Lake" and "Don Quixote."

Outstanding safety record

KOREAN carrier Asiana Airlines (OZ) announced that it had completed over 500,000 flights without a single accident.

OZ said it had marked five-and-a-half years of operations with among the highest marks for flight safety and management. Its outstanding safety record is reflected in its low hull insurance rating of 0.076.

You Jung Park, the airline's regional manager, reiterated its commitment to passenger safety and security amid the growing concern for the industry worldwide.

OZ flies to 45 destinations in 12 countries including China, Japan, the United States, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Russia and Germany from its base in Seoul. It flies to and from Manila nine days a week, including three extra flights, two of which depart just before midnight.

It recently became the largest operator of services between Korea and China, having more frequencies and destinations than any other airline.

OZ—winner of the 2001 Passenger Service Award by Air Transport World Magazine and the Company Award for Excellence by Boeing for best safety and on-time reliability—was recently valued at over $700 million.

Extra check-in time

EMIRATES Airline is advising its clients to arrive at the airport three hours before flight departure to allow for extra airport security procedures.

The Dubai-based international carrier, which is running on a normal schedule, is also warning its clients to take the greatest care when packing for travel by air.

Passengers are strictly forbidden from carrying any of the following in carry-on baggage on any Emirates flight: toy or replica guns (plastic or metal); blades of any length (including razor blades and steel nail files); darts; corkscrews; sporting bats (including rackets, cricket bats and golf clubs); billiard, snooker, or pool cues; household cutlery; paper knives; tradesmen's tools; scissors of any size; knitting needles; catapults; and hypodermic needles.

Those carrying any of these items will be asked to put it in their hold baggage. Those requiring hypodermic needles for diabetes, allergies, etc. will be asked for proof of medical need.

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Surviving Africa makes good TV

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

MUST-WATCH TV series—"Survivor 3—Africa." It is hard to watch anything but the news these days as you don't know when war would break out (although I am hoping it will not). But there is a series out there that has captivated audiences worldwide and will premiere in the United States on Oct. 11 (I am not sure if it will be here at the same time).

"Survivor 3—Africa" will have the same motto as the others: Outwit, Outplay and Outlast. Its cast members this time around include a 46-year-old goat farmer, a frizzy-headed professional soccer player, two bartenders, a flight attendant, a 22-year-old Duke University graduate, a 57-year-old retired school teacher and a 27-year-old beauty queen-turned-deputy sheriff from Orlando. The rules are also the same: 16 persons are divided into teams of eight with a twist in the end when they merge as one group. The series will be telecast on AXN and Studio 23.

"SURVIVOR 3"—Soon on AXN and Studio 23

An example from America. The World Trade Center (WTC) tragedy is on everyone's lips, and rightfully so. A friend of mine who lives in New York e-mailed me about his experience when he went to the site where the building once stood. He told me that it was such a moving and spiritual experience. "A building that high, gone with about 6,000 lives snuffed out, all in the name of hatred. I realized the power of hate, the importance of life and how one should live it well and needs to move on," my friend said.

I caught the telethon, "America: A Tribute to Heroes" on TV the other day. It was great and exemplary, not only because the movie stars were there but because of the spirit behind it—to help. The show was able to raise $150 million in pledges. Similar concerts and telethons will be held all over the country.

This leads me to this Sunday's thoughts. I realize that people, despite differences in political beliefs, religion, culture, etc., can come together in time of calamity and need. The Philippines has experienced a lot of tragedies and still in a "spirit of calamity and need." Our economy is in dire need of resuscitation. We look to our political leaders but they are always playing the game of one-upmanship and are divided into factions. Only a handful really thinks of the country and its people. Most are thinking of their wallets or the next election.

Watching the unity demonstrated all over the US, I realized how proud they are to be Americans. They sing "God Bless America" or "America the Beautiful" with so much conviction and passion.

We have experienced that same feeling twice in the past, in Edsa I and II, so it must still be there. I hope the leaders of this country will not wait for a similar tragedy to happen before realizing that they are supposed to serve the Philippines and its people. That they should unite to make our people proud to be called Filipino.

Retro at Rockwell. All roads will lead to Rockwell on Oct. 2-4 as ABS-CBN Foundation revives the '60s and '70s for the benefit of the La Mesa Watershed Project. Spearheaded by the inspiring and indefatigable **Gina Lopez**, the three-day event will feature musicals from Broadway, **Ryan Cayabyab** and '60s music. Tickets are available at ABS-CBN Foundation, or call 415-2277.

Bazaar in September. It is three more months till Christmas but a bazaar is already in town. This one will help raise funds for The Chosen Children's Village, a foundation for mentally and physically handicapped children, and Abot Pangarap Foundation, which provides financial assistance for the education of underprivileged children. The bazaar will be held at the Hotel Inter-Con today, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the gate.

Must-have look—Hippie Chic. With the return of boots and the mod look, can the '70s be far behind? This is something the original '70s chic girl, **Maryanne Cuenca-Tinio**, knows all too well. Here are some fashion accessories that one can't do without to get that hippie look going, updated, of course, for the 21st century. It's definitely not the grungy image made popular during the '90s or by the band Nirvana. This time around the hippie look takes on a more sophisticated air.

Diary of Constance Brooke San Lorenzo Pendleton—"Party of the Year." Our intrepid socialite takes a breather and realizes how much she has missed the nightlife.

"I am so happy that I attended the launch of the Philippine Tatler two Thursdays ago. I guess all recent events stretching back to last year's impeachment up to the WTC tragedy just wore me down. Like many people, I've become a CNN/BBC/CNBC addict, glued to my TV constantly to follow developments. Then I get depressed thinking about the tragedy and its implications for all of us. Sigh. I think it is tragic that all our lives are affected by the handiwork of a very sick individual.

"I was thrilled to see just about *everyone* at the party. It is very rare to get practically everyone on Manila's A-list to go to one party but every social group was there—from the young, ahem, to the mature crowd. This was *the* party and *the* place to be. I saw people I hadn't seen in ages! I think everybody was determined to have a good time and try to forget, if only for an evening, everything going on in the rest of the world.

"The outlets at the Mandarin were packed afterward as everyone tried to extend the evening's festivities. My only complaint was the traffic on the way to the hotel. I had to be dropped off about 20 ft from the entrance. That is not much, you might say, but not if you are wearing stilettos. Well, I forgot all this, once I was at the launch.

"The night's emcee was my old friend **Johnny Litton** who, as usual, did a great job. It was great to see three of the cover girls, namely, **Luli Arroyo**, **Jo Ramos** and **Imee Marcos**, there, too. All the girls looked great but **Borgy**'s mom, well, she stole the thunder with that tighter than tight Leger dress.

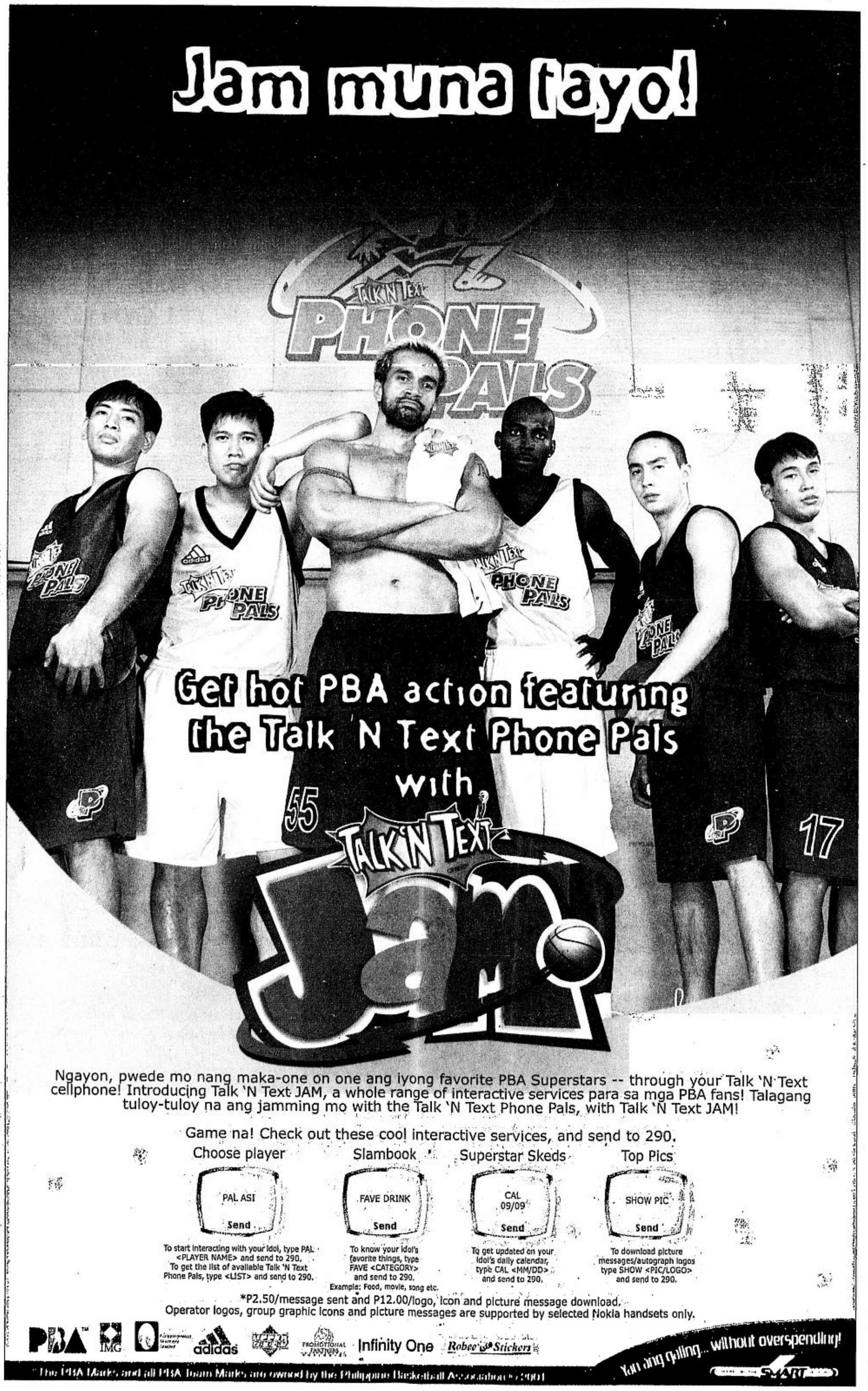
"As for the entertainment, **Martin Nievera** gave an absolutely first-class performance, his voice and presence were just incredible. But I think the real star was **Pops Fernandez**. Everybody in the audience got excited when Martin called her onstage to join him. Given their recent history, I guess everyone became a voyeur of sorts. Pops rose to the occasion quite nicely. I feel that after the separation, Pops has truly come into her own and has become her own woman. She is a class act. She was just magnificent. If I sound like I am gushing, it's because I am.

"So if you weren't there, you just missed a most fun evening."

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

KNEE-HIGH boots from Louis Vuitton

HIPPIE bag from Christian Dior



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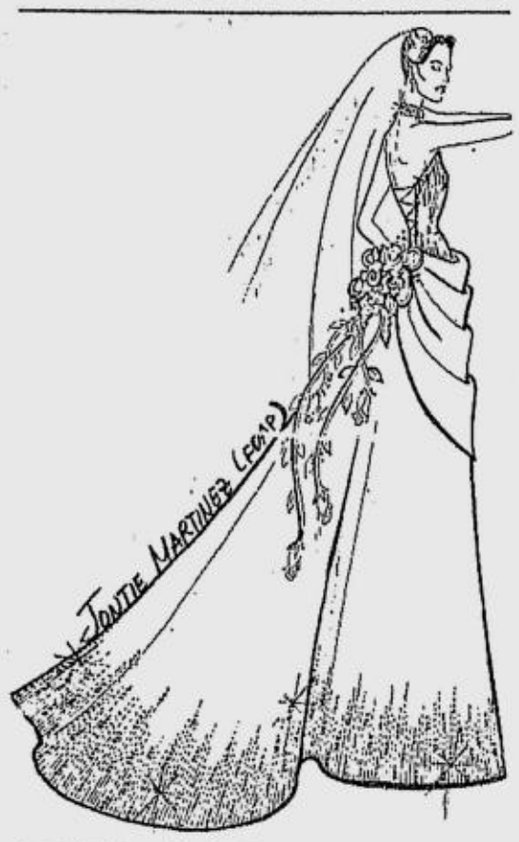
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2001
Sunday LIFESTYLE



FDAP launches biggest bridal fair

THE 34-MEMBER Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines will feature its largest bridal collection on Oct. 5 and 6 during the Weddings 2001 Bridal Fair and Fashion Show at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

FDAP chair Edgar San Diego says FDAP is working on a thematic look for the show featuring the four seasons but with a Filipino twist.

"We will make a play with colors and look of the four seasons but applicable to Manila weather," says San Diego.

San Diego says the show is part of the association's 20th year celebration.

The designer admits that the economic crunch has affected their sector and weddings provide the biggest source of revenues for many of their members these days.

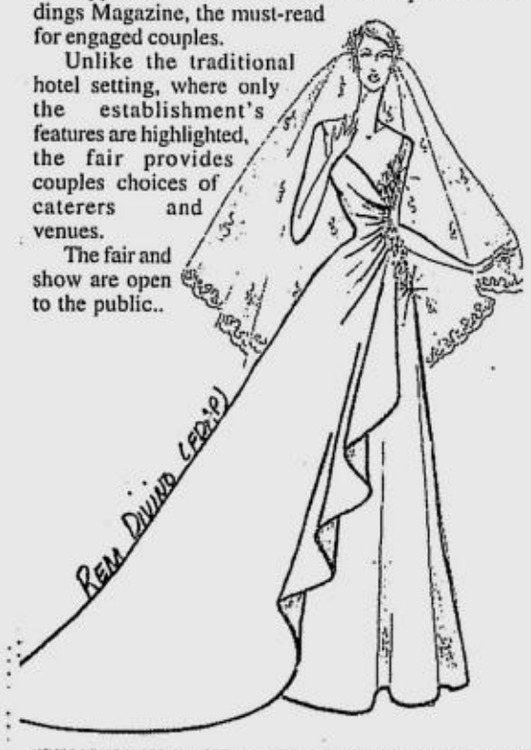
Top designer Frederick Peralta is putting together the event which is also the formal launch of Marathon Publishing's Weddings Magazine where he is the fashion editor. Rita Neri of The Wedding Store is the organizer of the fair, which will feature some 60 exhibitors.

"It's the last big bridal fair of the year," says Neri who was the wedding coordinator of Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales, and Alfred Ty and Cherry Tan, children of taipans George Ty and Lucio Tan, respectively.

Neri says she had no problem selling the event because the venue provides a good one for many of the suppliers. Another reason is the tie-up with Weddings Magazine, the must-read for engaged couples.

Unlike the traditional hotel setting, where only the establishment's features are highlighted, the fair provides couples choices of caterers and venues.

The fair and show are open to the public..



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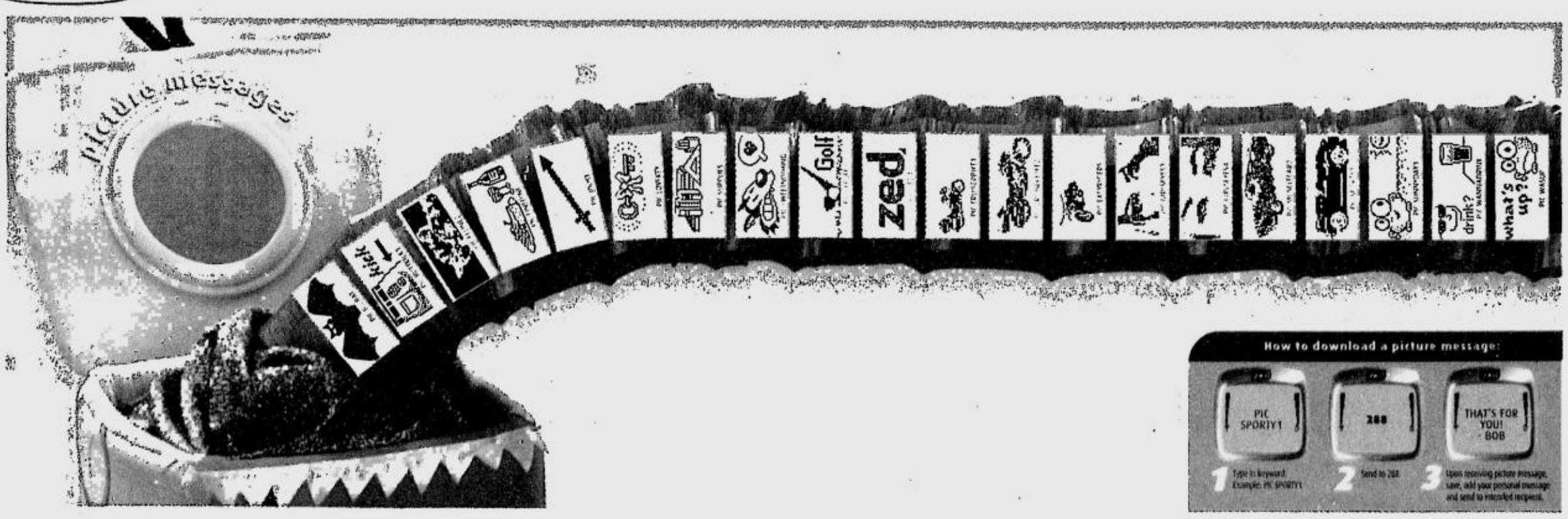


DONDON and Kristine with their secondary sponsors (from left) Karissa Marcial, Rouiza Cuasay, Judy Anne Gonda, Vanesa Aquino, Glenda Gloria, Bernard King Trinidad, Jonathan Balmes, Jason Buyao, Edgar Macatangay and Paolo Llana

NEWLYWEDS Kristine and Dondon Dimacuha

DIMACUHA-BALMES

Three-generation 'pamanhikan' wins over bride's family

BY DONNIE C. RAMIREZ

THE BRIDE with brother-in-law Benedict Aquino, brothers Angelo and Jonathan, dad Dante, mom Yolinda, sister Vanesa Aquino, sister-in-law Menchie Tan-Balmes and nephews Justine, Chino and Maru (foreground)

DONDON Dimacuha and Kristine Balmes were so overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and good wishes at their wedding that they nearly missed their cues in the traditional toast during the dinner reception at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The couple exchanged vows at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park with Msgr. Rafael Oriondo and the Rev. Fr. Joselin Gonda officiating. Emotions ran high as the lovely bride marched toward the altar to her waiting groom, while the UP Concert Chorus sang and a string ensemble from the Manila Symphony Orchestra played.

Both bride and groom come from old Batangas political clans. Dondon's father is Eduardo Dimacuha, mayor of Batangas City, a post that Dondon previously held. His mother is the former Vilma Abaya. Kristine is a political luminary in her own right. She topped the elections recently for Batangas City councilor. Her parents are prominent Batangas couple Dante and Yolinda (nee Gonda) Balmes.

The wedding was the culmination of a long courtship and engagement steeped in charming country traditions. At the *pamanhikan*, the groom's big family, including grandparents, brothers, sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces, came in full force to formally ask the permission of Kristine's parents for Dondon to marry their daughter. Flamboyant florist Juan Carlo, who also did the floral décor for the celebrity weddings of Bong and Lani Revilla and Ogie and Michelle Alcasid, festooned the Balmases' four-story residence-cum-office with truckloads of fresh blooms.

The principal sponsors were Education Secretary Raul Roco, Sen. Ralph Recto and his wife, Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto, Batangas Vice Gov. Peter Laurel, Mayor Roberto Luna Jr., Leonardo Javier, Maru Sotto Jr., Dr. Venancio Gloria, Mesdames Josephine Ty-Chua, Rayla Laurel, Sarah Lopez, Evelyn Go and television personalities Mel Tiangco and Tina Revilla-Valencia.

Paolo Llana and Bernard King Trinidad were best men, while the bride's sister, Vanesa Aquino, and bosom pal Glenda Gloria were matron-of-honor and maid-of-honor, respectively. Groomsmen were Jason Buyao, Edgar Macatangay and Jonathan Balmes. Bridesmaids were Karissa Marcial, Rouiza Cuasay and Judy Anne Gonda. Secondary sponsors were Esteban Buan II and Katrina Rivera (candle), Raymund Pastor and Generosa Sta. Inez (veil), and Jerome Hughes and Rachel Dumlao (cord).

The little attendants were Brian Ronquillo, Joshua and Michaela Willenburg, Jose Mari Barrios, Andrea Wambangco, Angela Guevarra, Danielle Quintal, Santino Mariño, Michael Jasper and David Angelo Balmes.

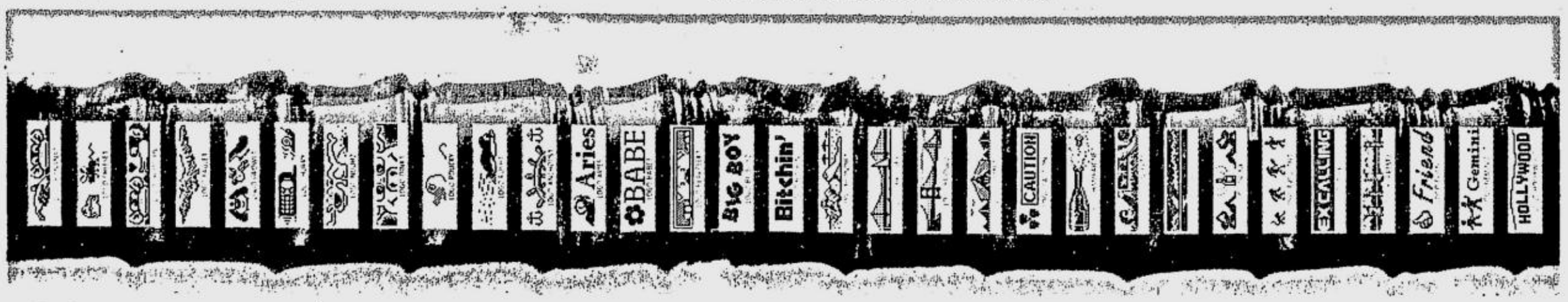
On the eve of their wedding, Dondon sent Kristine a spray of flowers with a touching message expressing his happiness that she accepted him to be her husband and to share her life with him. A romantic gesture that portends a long and blissful life for the newly weds. Congratulations!

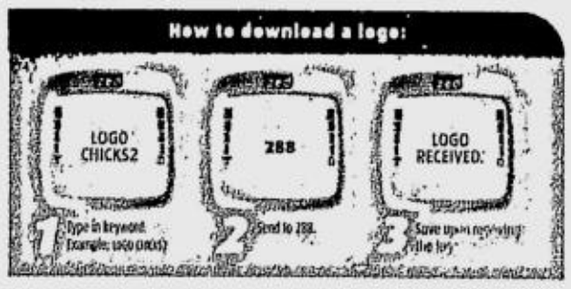
WEDDING guests Lorna Laurel (seated, from left), Edith Rabat and Criselda Lontok. Behind are Jojo Laurel, Danny Dolor, Sergie Osmeña-Valencia, Dr. Yolinda Balmes, former Sen. Sotero Laurel, Alex Lopez, Fe Medina and Tess Villena

JUSTICE Secretary Nani Perez, the bride's mom Dr. Yolinda Balmes and Education Secretary Raul Roco

THE NEWLYWEDS with the groom's family brother-in-law Marvin Marino (holding son Santino), sister Beverly Marino, mom Vilma, dad Eddie and brother RD

WITH THEIR wedding sponsors (from left) Evelyn Go, Tina Revilla-Valencia, Mel Tiangco, Sally Laurel-Lopez, Rayla Laurel, Josie Ty-Chua, Sen. Ralph Recto and Maru Sotto





Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings, engagements and debuts. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple/debutant at least one month before the event. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

DE GUZMAN-OHIDE

Ricky de Guzman and **Eloisa Ohide** exchanged marital vows on Sept. 29 at the Baluarte de San Diego Gardens, Intramuros, Manila.

ANNIVERSARY

Edwin David Villanueva, consultant on environmental, health and safety, and **Leonisa de Ocampo Villanueva**, chief of the Philippine Ports Authority Training Center, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary with their only child, **Mary Alice "Peaches" Villanueva**, as maid of honor. The couple renewed their marriage vows on Aug. 15 at the St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church, Palanan, Makati City. Reception followed at the Aloha Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. **Thelma Daquioag** designed the gowns of the bride and entourage. The bride's gown was a silver gray, fully beaded three-piece ensemble of duchess satin and Swiss organdy, embellished with cut glass, beads and crystals.

ANNIVERSARY

Rufino and **Naty Deloeste** of Fab, Lipa City celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their children **Neil, Ric, Rey, Aideen, Marlyn, Helen, Willie** and **Susan**, sons- and daughters-in-law, grandchildren, relatives and friends on June 23. Renewal of vows was solemnized at the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Chapel, Lipa City. Reception followed at Club Victorina, Base View Homes, Lipa City. Coordination and choreography were by **Jun Magana** and **Eddie Rosales**.

SANTOS DEBUT

Ma. Catherine Grace C. Santos, daughter of **Carlos** and **Guada Santos**, celebrated her debut last July 28 at the Aberdeen Court in Quezon Avenue, QC. She is a sophomore student of the University of the East, Caloocan City, taking up business management.

DY-RUFU

Wurly Anthony Recato Dy will exchange marital vows with **Malou Rufu** on Oct. 20 at the National Shrine of Sacred Heart. Reception will follow at the Harana Ballroom, Hyatt Hotel.

ALORA-LONGALONG

Rodolfo A. Alora Jr., son of lawyer **Rodolfo O. Alora Sr.** and **Soledad Ama-Alora**, married **Carissa P. Longalong**, daughter of lawyers **Oscar** and **Elisa B. Pilar-Longalong**, on June 2 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. A garden dinner reception followed at the Courtyard, Ilustrado Restaurant, Intramuros.

ANNIVERSARY

Fermin Antesoda-Doria and retired professor **Dolores Carpio**, residents of Toronto, Canada, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at Our Parish of Holy Sacrifice, UP Campus, Diliman, QC, on Sept. 15. Reception followed at the Gusali, College of Home Economics, UP.

The couple is blessed with five children and 12 grandchildren.

The bride wore a two-piece ensemble of Chantilly lace intricately beaded with seed pearls and sequins. The groom donned an elegant suit. The entourage wore a tulle, glittered in leaf and floral pattern in pale yellow and cream motif. Flower arrangement was by **Junel Limgallon**.

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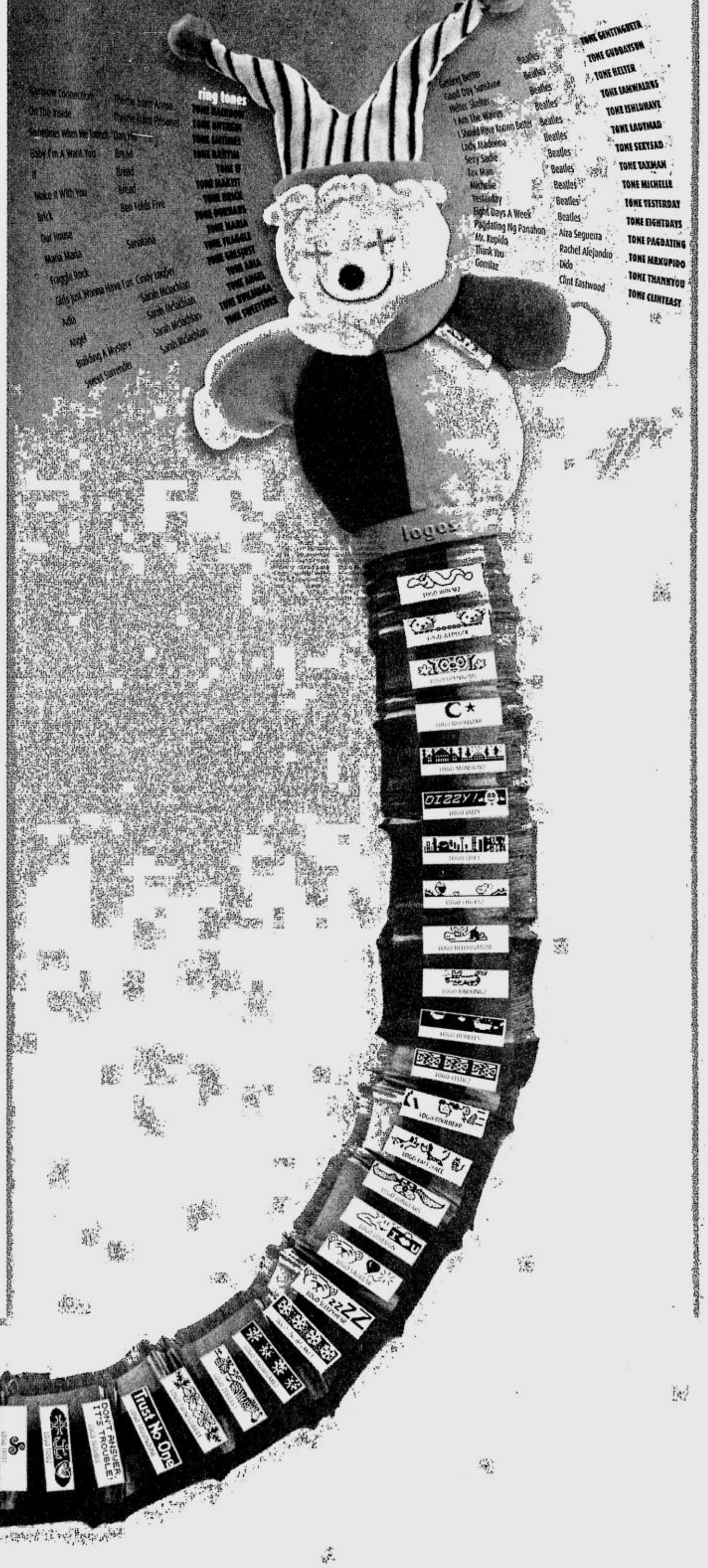

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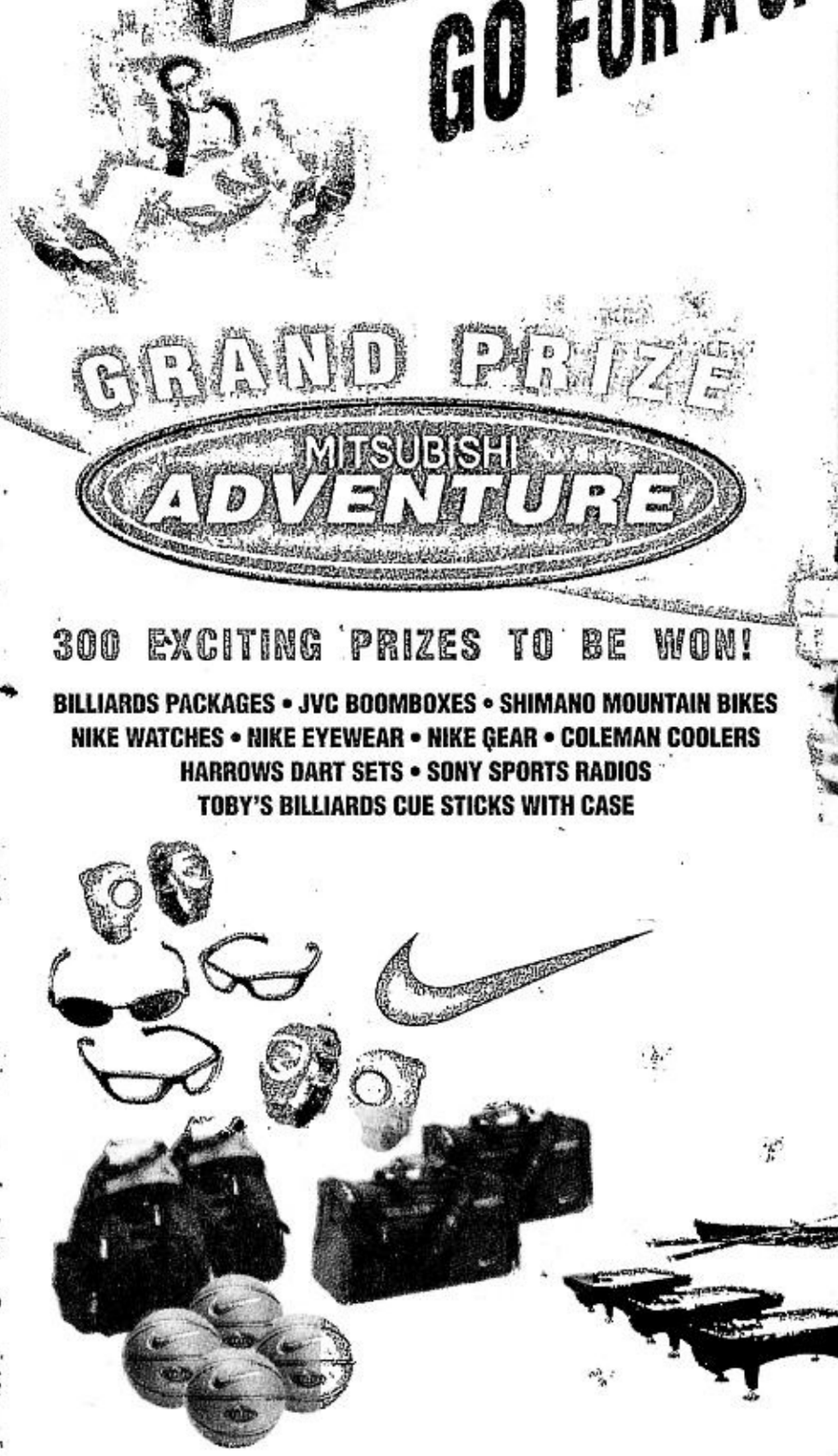

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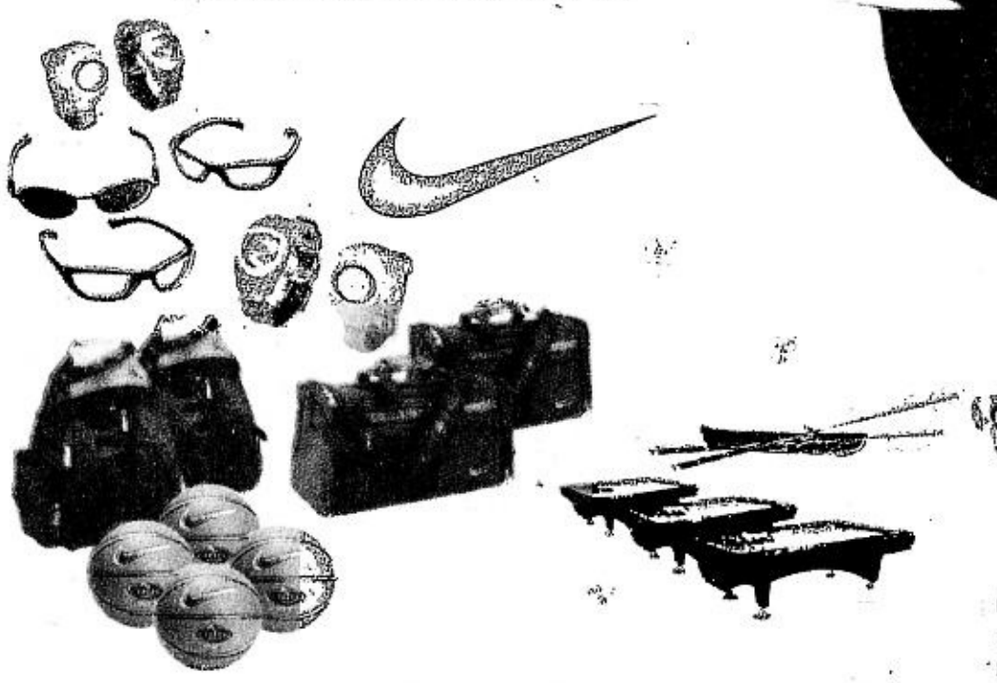

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2. Completely fill-out the raffle coupon with the fl. information: your name, address, signature, Talk 'N Text mobile number and the IMEI number found inside the unit. The "seller" should also fill-out the "seller" portion with his/her name, contact number, signature, dealer or store name and address.

3. Drop the raffle coupon portion at any dropbox located in designated TSI, SMART or MOBILINE outlets nationwide.

4. Promo period is from August 8, 2001 to October 15, 2001.

5. There will be two preliminary draws and one grand raffle draw. The first preliminary draw will be held on September 3, 2001; the second on September 28, 2001; and the grand draw on October 18, 2001. All draws will be held at 3PM on the said dates at the 27/F, Smart Tower, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. A DTI representative will be present during all the draws.

6. Deadline for submission of entries will be the closing of store hours on the following dates:
   For the 1st preliminary draw: August 30, 2001
   For the 2nd preliminary draw: September 23, 2001
   For the grand draw: October 15, 2001

7. Both the buyer and seller get a chance to win prizes.

8. The prizes for the buyers are as follows:

Grand Draw:

1st Prize	One (1) MITSUBISHI Adventure Super Sport
2nd Prizes	Two (2) Billiards Packages
3rd Prizes	Three (3) JVC Boomboxes
4th Prizes	Three (3) SHIMANO Mountain Bikes
5th Prizes	Four (4) COLEMAN Coolers
6th Prizes	Twenty (20) NIKE Steel Agent Super Watches
7th Prizes	Ten (10) NIKE TW9-Tiger Woods Eyewear
8th Prizes	Ten (10) NIKE Uniballer Bags with Leather Basketball
9th Prizes	Five (5) HARROWS Dart Sets
10th Prizes	Fifty (50) SONY Sports Radios
11th Prizes	Twenty (20) TOBY'S Billiards Cue Sticks with case

First Preliminary Draw:

1st Prize	One (1) Billiards Package
2nd Prize	One (1) JVC Boombox
3rd Prize	One (1) SHIMANO Mountain Bike
4th Prizes	Three (3) COLEMAN Coolers
5th Prizes	Ten (10) NIKE Trlax Junior Watches
6th Prizes	Ten (10) NIKE Interchangeable Eyewear
7th Prizes	Ten (10) NIKE Duffel Bags
8th Prizes	Five (5) HARROWS Dart Sets
9th Prizes	Twenty-five (25) SONY Sports Radios
10th Prizes	Twenty (20) TOBY'S Billiards Cue Sticks with case

Second Preliminary Draw:

1st Prize	One (1) Billiards Package
2nd Prize	One (1) JVC Boombox
3rd Prize	One (1) SHIMANO Mountain Bike
4th Prizes	Three (3) COLEMAN Coolers
5th Prizes	Ten (10) NIKE Trlax Junior Watches
6th Prizes	Ten (10) NIKE Interchangeable Eyewear
7th Prizes	Ten (10) NIKE Duffel Bags
8th Prizes	Five (5) HARROWS Dart Sets
9th Prizes	Twenty-five (25) SONY Sports Radios
10th Prizes	Twenty (20) TOBY'S Billiards Cue Sticks with case

9. The prizes for the sellers are as follows:

Grand Draw:

1st Prize	P300,000.00 (1 winner)
2nd Prizes	P30,000.00 (2 winners)
3rd Prizes	P3,000.00 (125 winners)

First Preliminary Draw:

1st Prize	P30,000.00 (1 winner)
2nd Prizes	P3,000.00 (85 winners)

Second Preliminary Draw:

1st Prize	P30,000.00 (1 winner)
2nd Prizes	P3,000.00 (85 winners)

10. The names of the raffle draw winners will be announced via major national newspapers. Winners will also be notified via registered mail and text message to the Talk 'N Text mobile phone number listed on the raffle coupon

11. Prizes are not convertible to cash.

12. All prizes are tax-free. Alcatel Philippines, Inc. will shoulder the 20% tax of prizes with values exceeding P10,000.00.

13. During the preliminary draws, each person can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, the winner gets the prize with the higher value. Winners of the first preliminary draw will be excluded from the second draw. However, non-winners will be eligible to join.

14. In the grand draw, all winning and non-winning entries in any of the preliminary draws will be included and eligible to win any of the prizes.

15. Prizes can be redeemed within sixty (60) calendar days from announcement and receipt of notification. Winners can claim their prizes from the nearest branch of Acabar Marketing International stated on the registered mail upon presentation of the following: the winning raffle stub, valid ID with picture and signature (e.g. driver's license, passport, school ID, company ID), Alcatel OT300 unit and Talk 'N Text SIM Card that match those indicated in the raffle coupon. Prizes unclaimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited with prior approval from the DTI

16. The winner of the Mitsubishi Adventure can get the original certificate which will be awarded at the nearest Mitsubishi dealer. The winner will shoulder the cost of LTO registration and other documentation.

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DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

MANAGERIAL

A large and established American Multinational Consumer company is seeking qualified applicants for various positions:

FINANCE

Senior Accountants (SA)
- Male/Female, 23-35 years old;
- Accounting graduate, preferably a CPA and/or with MBA degree or units;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Can work under minimum supervision, keen on details and possesses high analytical skills;
- With strong working experience in a medium to large manufacturing firm.

Financial Analyst (FA)
- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old;
- Accounting, business or economics degree holder; should belong to top 15% of graduating class;
- Preferably with MBA degree or units;
- With experience in Corporate/Strategic Planning and/or Financial Analysis gained from a multinational environment or accounting firm/management consulting/ business research organization;
- Computer literate;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- Highly motivated, fast-tracker, works well under pressure.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Systems Analyst (S An)
- Male/Female, not over 35 years old;
- Graduate of Accounting, Engineering, Computer Science or other related courses;
- With experience in any of the following:
  - MS-Access
  - SQL
  - Datawarehousing
  - Business Intelligence Systems (Cognos, Business Objects, etc.)
  - ERP Software (BPCS, JDE, PRISM, SAP etc.)
- Highly motivated, fast-tracker; works well under pressure.

OPERATIONS

Quality Assurance Manager (QAM)
- Male/Female, not over 40 years old;
- Graduate of Chemistry, Food Science, Food Microbiology, or a related course;
- 3-5 years experience in food processing and/or packaged food manufacturing in a supervisory capacity, with two (2) years experience in microbiological analyses of dairy and other food products;
- Broad knowledge of quality management systems (HACCP, ISO 9000. etc.).

Microbiologist (M)
- Male/Female, not over 35 years old;
- Graduate of BS Biology major in Microbiology/BS Microbiology/ BS Biochemistry;
- 3-5 years experience in food processing, microbiological or pharmaceutical laboratory in a supervisory capacity;
- Good oral and written communication skills;
- Computer literate.

Draftsman (D)
- Male, not over 35 years old;
- Engineering course graduate;
- Knowledgeable in mechanical drafting/industrial design or equivalent;
- Knowledgeable in CAD software applications for plans and drawings;
- Computer literate and has good oral and written communication skills.

Production Analyst (PT)
- Male/Female, not over 29 years old;
- Must be an Industrial Engineering graduate;
- Minimum of 2 years experience as industrial engineer in a manufacturing plant;
- Knowledgeable in time and motion study, methods analysis, manpower complementation, value engineering, establishment and maintenance of production standards and performance measurement;
- Background in PRISM or related systems will be an advantage;
- Proficient in MS Excel, Word, Access, PowerPoint and Project.

PPIC Analyst (PA)
- Male, not over 35 years old;
- Preferably college graduate in Mechanical Engineering/ Industrial Engineering/Chemical Engineering/Computer Science;
- At least one (1) year experience in a manufacturing set-up;
- Has knowledge in materials requirement planning;
- Good analytical skills; computer literate.

Quality Control Analysts (QCA)
- Male/Female not over 35 years old;
- BS Chemistry graduates;
- ISO and HACCP literate, with professional license.

SALES

Sales Trainees (ST)
- Male/Female, not over 35 years old;
- Graduates of any 4-year college course;
- Knowledgeable in retail and consumer goods industry will be an advantage;
- Above-average oral and written communication skills;
- Must have good analytical skills;
- Computer literate.

MARKETING

Assistant Product Manager (APM)
- Male/Female, not over 30 years old;
- Graduate of Business, Marketing, Economics or Management Engineering, with MBA preferred but not required;
- 2-3 years marketing experience (brand); sales experience is an advantage;
- Computer literate;
- Must be a team leader, hardworking, willing to travel, and stay long in provincial areas.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Buyers (B)
- Male/Female, not over 30 years old;
- College graduate of any business or Engineering course;
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience in Purchasing Management and other Supply or Vendor Management functions;
- Knowledgeable on import/export procedures;
- Possesses excellent negotiation and coordination skills;
- Above-average written and oral communication skills, both English and Tagalog;
- Special ability to influence other people is a major advantage;
- Has an uncompromising value for integrity and the highest level of professional conduct;
- Computer literate.

Qualified applicants kindly send your comprehensive resumé (indicating your last salary, contact numbers, and the position code) together with a copy of your transcript of records through:

Email: **mestimo@kraftasia.com**
Drop box or snail mail: **Kraft Foods (Philippines) Inc.**
drop box at
8378 Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City

If you are
.... single, male, 20 to 30 years old
.... college graduate

and posses the following:
.... good communication skills and interpersonal skills
....capability to drive
.... willingness to travel from time to time
.... strong determination to succeed and has the ability to have fun in everything you do.

APPLY NOW!!!

Corporate Recruitment
RAMCAR CENTER
80-82 Roces Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City
* Previous applicants need not apply

Up for Challenge?

JOIN OUR POWERFUL SALES TEAM

What's in store for you?

We give our employees opportunities to explore their potentials by offering them an environment that will give them the chance to learn the latest trends and techniques in SALES.

Thus, this will equip them in handling a MANAGEMENT position upon successful completion of the training program.

PEOPLESUPPORT

PeopleSupport provides online customer service via email, chat, voice-over-IP, and phone. Our global network is composed of corporate headquarters in L.A., US operations center in St. Louis, Missouri, sales offices strategically placed in major cities in the US, and of course, the Asia Pacific Headquarters in Manila, Philippines.

WWW.PEOPLESUPPORT.COM

eReps™

are PeopleSupport's customer service representatives who provide online customer service via email management, chat, voice-over-IP and phone on a 24x7 basis.
QUALIFICATIONS: Four year college degree. Customer service orientation. Excellent English communication and good typing skills. Internet savvy. Willing to work shifts.

technical eReps™
College graduates (4-year degree) from Computer Science/IT courses (or any related degree/background).

General eReps™
College graduates (4-year degree). Strong customer service orientation.

travel eReps™
Experience in **airline reservations** (preferably international), or **hotel/car rental reservations.**
OR
Tourism/Hotel and Restaurant Management graduates.

Bilingual eReps™
College graduates (4-year degree) who can speak and write **SPANISH.**

Financial eReps™
Experience in the financial services industry, specifically in mutual funds and brokerage firms. Preferably a graduate of Business, Economics or Management of Financial Institutions.

Course Development Specialist
Works with Training Director and clients to determine course development needs for new client training and develops course curriculum and material for training purposes. Develops course content for internal training and updates current client course materials.

QUALIFICATIONS:
Previous project management experience. Minimum of 2 years course development experience. **Excellent written and verbal English communication skills.** Excellent writing and grammar skills. Previous experience in dealing with US clients. Ability to coordinate multiple projects. Good working knowledge of adult educational concepts and the internet. Proficient in MS Office.

EMAIL YOUR RESUMES TO:
applicants@peoplesupport.com
12TH - 14TH FL. PHILAMLIFE TOWER, 8767 PASEO DE ROXAS, SALCEDO VILLAGE, MAKATI

The POLICY Project

POLICY II Project-Philippines
The Futures Group International

The Futures Group International (TFGI) / POLICY II Project – Philippines is in immediate need of the following:

Program Officer for HIV/AIDS Policy Advocacy

Qualifications for the position include:

a. M.A. degree in a social science or development field
b. A minimum of 3 years experience working with NGOs and/or projects focusing on advocacy for HIV/AIDS and Infectious Diseases (ID) issues as it relates to HIV/AIDS
c. Knowledge of HIV/AIDS Policy processes and issues a plus
d. Ability to work with minimum supervision
e. Good communication skills

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The successful candidate shall contribute to the design, development and implementation of the HIV/AIDS and related Infectious Diseases (ID) strategies of the POLICY II Project in the Philippines. Specifically, he/she shall:

- Provide technical input in the development of the POLICY Project's HIV/AIDS and related ID strategy, advocacy approaches and tools.
- Provide technical assistance in strengthening HIV/AIDS and related ID advocacy networks/groups.
- Provide technical assistance to public, private, and NGO sectors to enhance skills in the analysis, presentation, and dissemination of information for HIV/AIDS and related ID policy formulation.
- Design and deliver training sessions in advocacy and training of trainers.
- Contribute to the preparation of project reports and document country activities and results achieved.
- Work with POLICY II Project team to develop annual workplans and budgets.
- Other duties as assigned by Country Director and/or the Deputy Country Director.

Reports to POLICY II Project Country Director or his/her designee.

Salary: Negotiable, per qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants may send their letter of application and curriculum vitaé on or before **October 19, 2001** to:

Ms. Sheila Flores
Telefax Nos. (632) 373-4140; (632) 373-4142; (632) 373-4143; (632) 373-4144 & (632) 372-5133
Email Addresses: tfg@compass.com.ph & tfg@pacific.net.ph
Mailing Address: G/F, FSS Bldg., No. 89 Sct. Castor St., Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City 1103

WE ARE INVITING YOU TO MOVE ON WITH US!

In line with the development of our prime properties including a 100-hectare premium property, the largest parcel of undeveloped land with clear title located beside Ayala Alabang in Las Piñas City, we are now looking for dynamic individuals to fill in the following positions:

- **GENERAL MANAGER** for Real Estate
- **VICE PRESIDENT** for Sales & Marketing
- **VICE PRESIDENT** for Business Dev't.

Candidates for the above-mentioned vacancies must have at least 5 years extensive experience/direct involvement in Real Estate, Planning, Marketing Development and Sales in a middle management to senior capacity, at least 30 but not over 35 years of age, with good public relations and knowledge in dealing with government agencies, self starter, trustworthy, excellent communication skills, analytical, innovative, flexible in handling stress, pressures and meeting tight schedules.

We offer competitive compensation package (open salary depending on experience and qualifications) plus numerous benefits to successful candidates. Interested parties may come personally or send their comprehensive resumé with picture and transcript of records to:

SVP-HRD, 4/F State Centre Building #333 Juan Luna Street, Binondo, Manila. Tel. nos. 242-1521-36, with fax nos. 242-0614 or 242-1227. You can also reach us through our e-mail address: stateinc@info.com.ph.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

We are in need of highly motivated individuals who are looking for a career path and feel that they have management potential.

1. Company needs six (6) staff managers to successfully complete a 120-day training.
2. No experience required, only a "can do" attitude.
3. Must be a college graduate and can speak excellent English.

- Average staff manager income after training is at least P500,000.00 per annum (basic plus incentives).
- Average salary and incentives during training can exceed P250,000.00 per annum.
- We are associated with U.S. and U.K. companies.
- Successful managers can receive all-expenses paid trip to U.K. or U.S.
- Operations center is located in Mandaluyong City.

REMEMBER, YOU CANNOT SUCCEED UNLESS YOU TRY!

Ask for **Miss Nita** for an appointment at **(632) 535-8488**
E-mail: **jm1@inquirer.com.ph**
(Subject: Mega-EC)

Where you find the best.

JOB MARKET ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

We sell various financial services in partnership with one of the country's top 5 universal banks and with the biggest Filipino life insurance company.

We have an urgent need for enterprising men and women to join our sales team as:

BANCASSURANCE FINANCIAL PLANNERS

Qualifications:

- College Graduate from a reputable school
- Currently earning between P15,000 to P25,000
- Remarkable sales experience during the last two years
- Good communication skills, smart and trainable
- Strong passion to succeed

We offer a guaranteed monthly compensation plus attractive incentives and bonuses.

Please apply personally and bring your resumé with recent 2x2 picture at the address below from:

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday,
October 01-05, 2001.

First Union Insurance & Financial Agencies, Inc.
1501 West Tower, Phil. Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Road
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

One of the top 1,000 corporations is in urgent need of:

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT

- Male or Female
- Commerce graduate major in Accounting and Finance
- With a minimum of 10 years experience in financial analysis, preferably in a manufacturing environment

Interested applicants are requested to mail their comprehensive resumé with transcript of records and a most recent photograph, NBI Clearance and a letter of recommendation at:

The Human Resources Department
6th Floor One Corporate Plaza Building
845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 813-6515

ASIAN TERMINALS INCORPORATED

ATI, a publicly listed operator of international sea ports and commercial logistics provider affiliated with P&O Australia Ltd., announces opportunities for the following:

HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT MANAGER
- Male, not more than 45 years old
- Engineering or Chemistry degree, preferably with Master's degree
- At least 7 years experience in occupational health, safety, environment, and security management
- Knowledgeable on international HSE standards such as ISRD, HAZOP, HAZWOPER, HAZ ID, BS 8800
- Accredited safety practitioner / consultant
- Successful applicant will handle the HSE in Laguna, Mariveles and Batangas

SAFETY OFFICER
- Male, not more than 40 years old
- Engineering degree or related course
- At least 2 years experience in health, safety & environmental management in a multinational firm
- Accredited safety practitioner / consultant

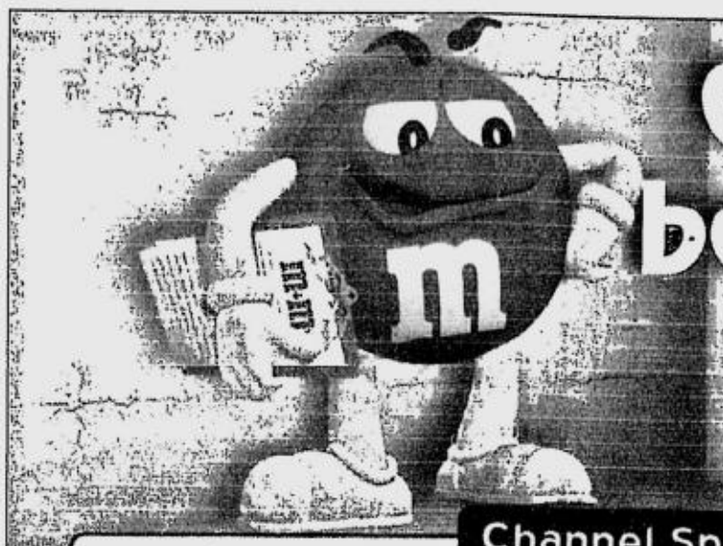
INVENTORY AND DOCUMENTATION HEAD
- Graduate of Accounting or related course
- At least two years supervisory experience in warehousing documentation and inventory, preferably with auditing experience
- Good communication skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to be assigned in Calamba, Laguna

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
- Male, Recent graduates of batch 2000 and 2001 Industrial Engineering course with excellent scholastic records
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- Willing to undergo extensive training and exposure to all departments
- Computer Literate

ASSISTANT AUTOMATION ENGINEER
- Male, BS Electrical Engineering, ECE, or Computer Science graduate
- At least 2 years experience in Cicode (Citect in-built programming language), Visual Basic, PLC (Programmable Logic Controllers), preferably GE Fanuc & Allen Bradley softwares/ hardwares.
- Experience in an industrial automation company
- Willing to be assigned in Mariveles, Bataan

Send your application letter, resume with photo and transcript of records on or before October 05, 2001 to

The Human Resources Department
ASIAN TERMINALS INCORPORATED
South Harbor, Port Area, Manila
or e-mail : JConer@asianterminals.com.ph



Could you be the one?

Master Foods Philippines, a MARS, Inc. Company is responsible for such snack food brands as M&M's SNICKERS, MARS and TWIX. We are also behind the renowned pet food brands PEDIGREE and WHISKAS. And we are in search of the most skilled, energetic men and women to join our sales force.

Channel Specialist- Impulse

As Channel Specialist you will be tasked to manage distributors in GMA and provide services to traditional (tertiary) trade channel. You will also be in charged of managing sales team, conceptualizing and implementing marketing activities for consumer products in the traditional trade. Conducting business reviews, forecasting and budgeting of assigned distributor(s) will also be a part of your job.

To be successful you must have an excellent record and years of experience in handling traditional channel in a fast-paced consumer goods industry. Must have college degree with good planning and organizational skill and proficient in communication. The candidate must also posses leadership flair, computer literate and knows how to drive.

Territory Sales Associates

Job holder will be responsible for the management of Key Accounts and Distributors in his/her assigned area. He or she will be in charge of distribution, merchandising and account development of MFPI products to both traditional and modern trade channels in North Luzon. He or she will also spearhead sell-out activity programs to increase sales volume and brand awareness.

The individual must be a college graduate should posses sound judgement and good analytical skills have passion for sales, result oriented and can work independently. It is also required that the candidate must have excellent communication skills knows how to drive and computer literate. Residents of Isabela and nearby cities of North Eastern Luzon are preferred.

m&m's · Starburst · MilkyWay · Pedigree

Send your resume to
The Personnel & Organization Division
Master Foods Philippines, Inc.
Ayala Life-FGU Center
19/F #6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
or e-mail: mfpi.jobs@ap.effem.com

The application period ends on October 12, 2001.
We will only respond to qualified applicants.
Previous applicants need not apply.

Mars

A POPULAR RESTAURANT CHAIN IS IN THE PROCESS OF EXPANDING AND FRANCHISING AND IS IN NEED OF AN

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Male or Female; 30 to 45 years old; Preferably a graduate of HRM or any business course; With at least 5 years experience in the same capacity; Computer literate and has an eye for detail; Well-versed in financial analysis and interpretation; Has experience in managing; Multi-branch operations, with extensive experience in conducting and implementing training programs; Salary commensurate to qualifications.

Interested parties may send their resumé with recent 2x2 ID picture thru fax 533-2960 or thru mail to this address:

THE PRESIDENT
#755 San Ignacio St.,
Mandaluyong City

POLYTRON

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

We are a dynamic multinational consumer electronics company and we have immediate requirement for:

Sales Managers and Supervisors
- Graduate of any 4 years course from a reputable university.
- Must be 22 to 35 years old with excellent communication skills.
- Experience in consumer electronics selling is an advantage.

Service Engineer
- Graduate of Electronics and Communication Engineer (ECE) or other related course.
- Knowledgeable in audio/video design and troubleshooting.

Interested applicants may submit their resumé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo not later than October 6, 2001.

POLYTRON Philippines Co. Inc.
88 M. Concepcion Avenue, Pasig
Tel. 640-3090 Fax 640-0941
E-mail: polytron@info.com.ph

A Leading Company is in need of the following...

A.) SECRETARY
- ☑ Female, below 30 years of age
- ☑ With basic knowledge in accounting
- ☑ Computer literate
- ☑ Proficient in communication skills and writing
- ☑ Can work with minimal supervision
- ☑ Fluent in English, Tagalog
- ☑ Pleasing personality and with at least 2 years of experience

B.) RECEPTIONIST
- ☑ Female, below 25 years of age
- ☑ Proficient communication skills and computer literate
- ☑ With basic knowledge in marketing and direct sales
- ☑ Pleasing personality, fluent in English and Tagalog

C.) MARKETING SUPERVISOR
- ☑ Female, below 30 years of age
- ☑ Proficient in communication and presentation skills
- ☑ With knowledge in direct sales marketing
- ☑ Can work under pressure and minimal supervision
- ☑ Computer literate, fluent in English and Tagalog
- ☑ Pleasing personality and with at least 2 years of experience

Interested parties, please bring along your latest 2"x 2" picture and comprehensive resumé for a personal interview from October 1, 2001 to October 5, 2001, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Unit W, 2501-A Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas, Pasig City.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

CLASSIFIED ADS DIVISION MANAGER

- Graduate of any Marketing Course
- 5 years marketing experience
- 3 years management experience
- Knowledge in product, price, distribution and promotion strategies
- Knowledge in management planning and budgeting skills

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé and 1x1 ID photo to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts.,
Makati City
E-mail: **recruitment@inquirer.com.ph**

A FOREIGN-OWNED COMPANY ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF BREATHABLE AND NON-BREATHABLE POLYETHYLENE FILM FOR DIAPER AND SANITARY NAPKIN APPLICATIONS IS IN NEED OF AN

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Qualifications:
- Male or female of at least 30 years of age
- Certified Public Accountant
- Five (5) years minimum experience in managerial level
- Well-versed in government statutory requirements
- Experience in a multinational plastic company is an advantage
- Excellent communication skills
- Proficient in MS Office applications

Mail or fax resumé to:

HR Department
FULL SAFE PHILIPPINES, INC.
ACSIE Ave., Severina Industrial Estate
Km. 16, West Service Road, South Superhighway,
Parañaque City 1700
Fax No. 821-6916

Our client, a multinational and a world leader in the service industry, invites candidates for the following positions:

CREDIT CONTROL OFFICER/CLERKS

(Code: CCntrl-MLA)

THE JOB: Hired candidates shall be responsible for credit control and collection.

THE REQUIREMENTS: Candidates must be graduates of any business course, with at least two years experience in credit and collection.

BILLING CLERKS

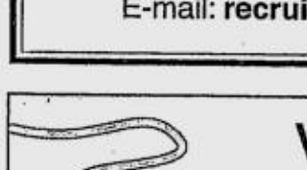
(Code: Bclerk - 10/15)

THE JOB: Hired candidates will maintain efficient, effective, accurate and timely completion of all billing activities and reports.

THE REQUIREMENTS: Candidates must be graduate of any business course from a reputable university, with at least two years experience, preferably in low value but high volume billing system.

All candidates for the above positions must be highly computer literate and keen to details, with very good numerical aptitude. Solid computer knowledge specifically in Microsoft Office is a must. Candidates must have strong communication and interpersonal skills and must be organized, systematic, and achievement oriented..

The company offers a competitive compensation and benefits package, plus excellent opportunities for training. Qualified applicants may send their resumés, with contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph (indicate code) through: execsearch@insync.com.ph or fax no. 6368113. Resumés may also be hand-carried to: Institutional Synergy, Inc., Unit 608, 6/F The Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. All applications must be in on or before **October 8, 2001.**



Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

creative nations inc.

International Product Developer and Distributor here in Metro Manila is urgently looking to fill the following **3** positions:

INTERNATIONAL EXPORT / SHIPPING / LOGISTICS MANAGER (1 PERSON)
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (1 PERSON)
INTERNATIONAL SALES & DISTRIBUTION SUPPORT EXECUTIVE (1 PERSON)

Do you have:

- Excellent experience and an excellent track record in your current job in any of the above positions?
- A fantastic attitude and great belief in yourself?
- A strict code of self-discipline and ability to work under extreme pressure and meet tight deadlines?
- The ability to communicate with excellent clarity, confidence and enthusiasm with CNI's international clients and business partners?
- Strong writing and computer skills - at least MS Word and MS Excel a must?
- A mature outlook on life and are determined to go places fast?

If so - you may just be the people we are looking for to fill the above positions, so why don't you give us a call and change your life forever for the better!

Call Mila Bumanlag on 671 7742 / 50 / 51 to set an appointment.
Resumés can be faxed to 672 0442 or emailed to rossco@creativenations.com

#41 Felipe Pike St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City, 1600

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

SERVICE ENGINEER

- Graduate of Computer Engineering
- Six months to one year experience
- Knowledge of Computer operations, desktop applications
- Troubleshooting skills, basic knowledge in networking

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé and 1x1 ID photo to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
E-mail: **recruitment@inquirer.com.ph**

MEDICard PHILIPPINES INC.

One of the country's leading HMO and the first HMO to be awarded ISO 9002 is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

NURSES

- ☑ Male or female, at least 5'7" for males and 5'3" for females. Must be a registered nurse;
- ☑ With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in a hospital or HMO setting;
- ☑ Must have a pleasing personality and above-average communication skills.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- ☑ Male, at least 5'6" in height, single;
- ☑ Graduate of BS Marketing or any Medical course;
- ☑ With above-average written and oral communication skills;
- ☑ Must be computer literate.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at:

MEDICard Philippines, Inc.
Human Resources Department
8/F Sagittarius Building
H.V. Dela Costa Street
Salcedo Village, Makati City
or E-mail us at rsalmon@medicardphils.com
(Previous applicants need not apply)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for a:

CIRCULATION FIELDMAN

- Graduate of any business course
- Knowledge of the ins and out of Metro Manila
- Excellent communication skills

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé and one 1x1 ID photo to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue
(formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
or e-mail: **recruitment@inquirer.com.ph**

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*A leading **Healthcare** company is in need of career-oriented individuals to fill-up the following positions:*

O.R. Nurse
Licensed nurse and a graduate of a reputable college/university
Aged 22 to 35 years old
With at least 2 years experience as O.R. Nurse in a hospital

Staff Nurse
Graduate of a reputable college/university
With valid PRC license
Aged 22 to 35 years old
With at least 1 year training experience in a hospital or clinic
Flexible and team player

Corporate Accounts Officer
Pleasing, confident and aggressive personality
With strong communication skills
At least 2 years experience in Sales and Marketing
preferably from a Healthcare or Health Insurance company
Aged 22 to 30 years old

Human Resources Officer
Preferably with degree in Psychology, Behavioral Science or related fields.
Hardworking with above par interpersonal and communication skills.
At least 2 years experience in Recruitment, Human Resources Mgt. & Dev., Design & Administration of Compensation & Benefits

Interested applicants may send your resumé to:

BOX MK-73
c/o Classified Ads Department
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium Makati, Makati Ave.,
Makati City

NERA
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

NERA is a premier solutions provider of microwave radio transmission, satellite communications and IT networking infrastructure and high value added electronics contract manufacturing. It started to address the local market early in 1995 and was awarded major contracts in the telecommunications networks of the country's major carriers.

Currently, we are looking for additional team player for our new Business Unit—**Information Technology.**

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR

1. Graduate of Computer Engineering or any IT related course;
2. With at least 3 years supervisory experience in handling technical services for companies such as telco enterprises and/or internet service providers;
3. With certification in IT field preferred such as CCIE;
4. Must be knowledgeable on the following functions:
   - Switch/router configurations LAN/WAN installations and maintenance;
   - Frame Relay/ATM/Gigabit Ethernet and ISDN Networking;
   - Data security/encryption and Virtual Private Networking (VPN);
5. Must have a strong customer service orientation;
6. Excellent command in verbal and written communications.

SALES ENGINEER

1. Graduate of Computer Engineering or ECE;
2. With at least 3 years sales experience in handling accounts for telcos or internet service providers;
3. Excellent command in verbal and written communications.

Please send your resumé at:

NERA Philippines, Inc.
8th Floor, Multinational Bancorporation Centre
6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 845-2971 loc 207 • Fax No. 845-3511/12
E-mail: tes@neraphil.com.ph

Our outsourcing service bureau is in need of the following:

NETWORK SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR
To provide technology application and administrative support to the company's IT infrastructure including the following primary duties:

- Network Security Administration
- Local and global systems implementation
- Hardware acquisition, installation and maintenance
- End-User training and support

The Administrator will be responsible for supporting Microsoft NT, Windows 95, MS Back Office, Lotus Notes Mail Server, FTP server, and future IT implementations.

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SUNDAY
INQUIRER
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
MAGAZINE

September 30, 2001
Volume 14 No. 30

Tanghalang Pilipino's "Carmen"

OFWs Invade Opera

Features

Celebrities
A Comedienne Reinvented *by Joy Rojas* **3**
She became a household name as the snooty Doña Buding, but veteran comic lady Nanette Inventor has evolved into other memorable characters

Cover Story
The Opera and the OFW *by Cora Llamas* **6**
Playwright JB Capino, director Nonon Padilla and a cast of Pinoy talents breathe life into an opera classic, giving it a contemporary Pinoy edge by setting it against the OFW phenomenon

Stylewatch
Natural Woman *by Rodolfo A.G. Silvestre Jr.* **10**
Dita Sandico-Ong has become the guardian angel and staunchest promoter of Pinoy fashion made from local fabrics--and her designs have taken her places

The Writer's Life
The Bitching Hour *by Natalia Diaz* **14**
With her bestselling book of nasty rhymes, who'd ever think self-styled Blair Bitch poet Chinie Hidalgo used to teach religion at an exclusive girls' school?

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The Cover Image The romance and reality of opera come together in Tanghalang Pilipino's adaptation of "Carmen." Playwright JB Capino (standing second from left) and director Nonon Padilla (sitting second from left) join the cast, led by Josephine Roces-Chavez, Nolyn Cabahug and other Pinoy opera lights *Photograph by Mike Alquinto*

THE AÑONUEVOS

I admire and praise those siblings, Becky, Bobby and Bootsie Añonuevo, for their guts and eagerness to write about everything under the sun (SIM, 12 August 2001). They have the eyes to see what should be written, and they also have the ears to hear what must be understood.

How I wish I had the same powers of concentration, consistency and resourcefulness to glean from past traditions, and to connect such things in our present times. Their style and individuality reveal a deep wide world of riches and truthfulness within us.

JESUS A. ANCHETA
2864 Brgy. San Roque 2
San Jose, Occidental Mindoro

BISHOP SOC

I thank the staff for featuring the life of the newly ordained Bishop Soc Villegas in one of your issues (SIM, 26 August 2001). Bishop Soc is really a blessing for the church for his great zeal and determination to serve God's flock. He works hard for evangelization through his meaningful and inspiring reflections. He is there, continuously working in spite of differences in belief, principles and perception in life (as seen during the past Edsa rallies). Indeed, Bishop Soc is a man of peace. Truly, your feature on him has inspired a lot of Filipinos. Thank you!

RONALDO PARAS
San Carlos Seminary
Makati City

PINOY WRITERS

I enjoyed reading yesterday's issue (SIM, 16 Sept. 2001) on the prize winners of the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature. Being a newcomer to the Philippines and a lover of literature, I would appreciate it if you can suggest websites, general and personal, of Philippine writers, as well as other writers in English, so I can become familiar with their works. Many thanks.

S.Y. KHIN
khin333@yahoo.com

ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!

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A Comedienne Reinvented

FOR AS LONG AS SHE CAN REMEMBER, NANETTE INVENTOR WANTED TO BE MANY THINGS. LIKE A LAWYER, MAYBE. OR A DOCTOR. BUT IN 1983, THE GIRL WITH THE FOREIGN SERVICE DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BECAME THE ONE THING SHE NEVER DREAMT OF: A *DOÑA*.

"An accident from an accident" is how the total entertainer describes the beginnings of her most memorable and unshakable alter ego, the snooty, social-climbing *Doña* Buding.

Years ago on the Martin Nievera-Pops Fernandez song-and-dance vehicle "Penthouse Live," comedienne-mainstay Cynthia Patag figured in a freak car crash. The show needed a stand-up act fast. When "Penthouse Live" executive producer Ronnie Henares and writer Joey Reyes spotted the pleasingly plump back-up vocalist at Celeste Legaspi's Manila Hotel show, they knew they had found their social satirist. "Joey said, 'Why don't we pick on *taba*?'" chuckles Nanette. "I thought, 'Well, make or break. But I'm sure it's not going to happen.'" A rousing audition before GMA-7 bigwigs and "Penthouse Live" director Fritz Infante proved otherwise; in a matter of weeks, Nanette was mocking the unclassy and the uncool as the bedazzling, bejeweled Buding.

Although credit for the character goes to the writer Reyes ("who himself is a *Doña* Buding," says Nanette), the comedienne was so convincing in her portrayal of the ostentatious lady of leisure, many actually believed she was a real Buding. To this day, people still call her *Doña* and shoppers are shocked to see her haggling for PNB ("*Pwet Ng Baso. Alahaseses*!" she exclaims of costume jewelry) at the Greenhills *tiangge*. Recently, a woman approached her after a show and offered her property for P15 million. "She told me she would accept a check right there and then!" laughs Nanette incredulously. The worst was when the comedienne was in the thick of the Buding phenomenon: thinking the jewelry was priceless, a female snatcher grabbed at Nanette's fancy necklace after a gig at the Folk Arts Theater. The two were locked in a struggle before security men arrived and Nanette had her bruises treated at the San Juan De Dios Hospital.

Buding, in fact, was so larger-than-life in more ways than one, she eventually overshadowed the entertainer's other talents. Not very many people know, for example, that Nanette's first-ever film was Mike De Leon's classic "*Kakabakaba Ka Ba*" in 1979. "Musical *yon. At mataray na* Mother Superior *ako doon, pero miembro ng sindikato sa* drugs (I was a member of a drug syndicate disguised as a nun)," relates Nanette. "So Whoopi Goldberg wasn't the first 'Sister Act'; I was!" In 1981, she appeared in another Mike de Leon masterpiece, the controversial "Batch '81."

"I played a teacher and my name was Miss Kasuso," she giggles. "*Pero pulang-pula yung pelikula* (but the movie bordered on the subversive), so my 12 scenes were cut down to five. My lines were in Latin and when I asked Mike what the words meant, *subersibo pala*!"

"Buding was an accident from an accident"

Singing, however, was what started it all for this accomplished entertainer. Born to a family of vocalists (her mom, aunt and two uncles sang in church and her maternal grandmother was a coloratura), this second of four kids sang in UP Theater musicals and as a member of the UP Concert Chorus. She also served as backup for the likes of Celeste Legaspi, Pilita Corrales, Basil Valdez and Leah Navarro. When Buding beckoned in '83, Nanette was playing the Wicked Witch of the West in Julie Borromeo's production of "The Wiz" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

But being Buding gave Nanette her first album, a 1985 recording of monologues book-ended by the Buding anthem "*Mayaman Ako*" and the Metropop-winning song "*Salamat, Musika.*"

Buding lay low when Nanette decided that it was time to try other things after four years of playing the socialite snob on TV and stage. Admittedly, the transition was a tough one. In "Foot & Mouth," a show where she delivered monologues, improvisations and original songs out of character, audiences didn't appear as satisfied. "I had very good material," Nanette recalls. "It's just that I was so conscious about veering away from Buding. So after picking up the pieces, I told myself, 'I guess you're not yet ready to get out of [Buding].' But I was in a hurry so that's what happened."

Various projects would soon allow Nanette to show her range as an all-around performer. She did well in a slew of sitcoms ("*Abangan Ang Susunod Na Kabanata*," "1 For 3," "In Da Money") and actually pulled off a couple of dramatic roles. "Why not, coconut? *Gustung-gusto ko yan*!" she exclaims. "'In 'Lovingly Yours, Helen' I played a security guard who was killed in the line of duty. *Ang hirap pala*

Romy Homillada

Regarding Space

We can be forgiven, taking
for granted what surrounds us,
this thing we move in, busy
as we are moving and moving
about colonnaded chambers,
caverns we call rooms, houses,
buildings. Much less fathom
why stars and planets have
so much spaces in between them.
Perhaps if our feet were concrete
footings, we would give up
trying to see what's beyond
the acacia framed by the half-
open steel casement window
with dusty drapes. Or stop
climbing the Chocolate Hills
of Bohol; always with our eyes
fixed on the next hilltop, again
forgetting to count the one
we're on. To simply stay put
the way a sea cucumber, unable
to flee from predators, disgorges
all its precious entrails into
the retreating canopy of low tide,
discovering in this sacrifice
of clearing house, what new life
emptiness can bring.

Sid Gomez Hildawa

Kung ang Pag-ibig Mo ay Similya

Kung ang pag-ibig mo ay similya
marahil ako ngayo'y nagdadalantao na,
at kung baka sakaling ako'y isang dalagita
marahil ako ngayo'y nagbubuntis na

Tatlong buwan na akong hindi dinaratnan,
malimit mahilo at magsuka,
manas na ang aking buong mukha,
at baka naglilihi na ako sa mangga

Sapagkat pag-ibig mo ang tangi kong kaulayaw
maging umulan ma't umaraw,
oras-oras at bawat sandali
tanging pag-ibig mo lamang ang aking katalik

Subalit kung ang pag-ibig mo ay similya
marahil ako ngayo'y nalulungkot na
sapagkat ang pag-ibig mo na ipinunla
bakit ngayon ay pina-abort mo na?

Teddy T. Corpuz

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Social statement: As the ostentatious Buding

no'n! Hindi ko alam kung saan ako babagsak! (I didn't know where to fall). Then in '*Maalaala Mo Kaya*,' I was an old maid who wanted to adopt a child. *Kasama ko sina* Cynthia Patag *at* Mitch Valdez, and Lupita Kashiwahara was our director!" Interestingly, the comedienne found crying as easy as making people laugh. "*Sobra. Parang* Niagara Falls *nga*," she reports. And she had to control herself so as not to steal the scene from the lead, she recalls.

If all goes as planned, Nanette will do some serious sobbing again in a forthcoming big-screen project. "*Oy, markado ang* role *ko dito, ha*!" she announces. For now, her versatility finds her affecting an Ilocano accent as Azucena Katuray in the ABS-CBN comedy "*Eto Na Ang Susunod Na Kabanata*."

She's also singing more frequently again. In "Menu," a show to celebrate her 18th year in the entertainment business, comedy becomes the spice to a musical repertoire of hits from the '60s, '70s and '80s. "Like a menu, it's a hodge-podge of social, moral and political vignettes garnishing a selection of good songs I've always wanted to sing," explains Nanette. The show is slated to run on all Fridays of October at the Republic of Malate. "The singing side of me has been sidetracked for the longest time." Not anymore. As a way-overdue follow-up to her second album (which reaped her seven Katha Music Awards including that of Best Novelty Singer), Nanette is busy recording tracks for her third album, a compilation of original songs and Pinoy favorites reworked with upbeat arrangements. The album is due for release next year.

She's even found time to run for public office – as the irrepressible *Doña* Buding, that is. Weeks before the national elections, Nanette resurrected the socialite in "*Doña* Buding For Senator," a show that received such rave reviews, producers are eager to develop a sequel.

"It was so apropos," explains Nanette of Buding's heralded comeback. "Everybody wanted to say something about politics, and since *Doña* Buding can say anything without batting an eyelash, you can't fault her. And people missed her." Did they ever: the Zobel de Ayalas saw the show, as did crowds weaned on "Penthouse Live" and Gen Y-ers who were watching her for the very first time. Despite the diverse crowd, Nanette attributes audiences' overwhelming response to "a more mature, less hysterical *Doña* Buding. It's not just *lait* and *katarayan* but meaty stuff. She's become socially and politically relevant."

While creative minds wrestle with the idea of the socialite as a *senadora*, Nanette is content living her life in simple fashion. She teaches mass communication subjects and basic acting part-time at the Wesleyan University and the Philippine Christian University. Whenever her schedule permits, she catches her colleagues' shows or stays home to watch a movie or read a book. She doesn't hide the fact that she's a foodie: traipse by the city's newest restaurant and you'll probably find her there. Though she's never made an issue of her weight, Nanette recently lost 12 pounds after being diagnosed last February with diabetes.

But such news doesn't faze Nanette who confesses, not surprisingly, that she loves to laugh. A lot. "*Ay, mababaw ako*!" she admits unabashedly. "What makes me laugh is the weakness of the Filipinos. It really floors me. *Kasi nakikita ko yung sarili ko 'pag nakikita ko sila*" (I see myself in them.) *Doña* Buding would have approved.

Contact the Republic of Malate (303-3529 to 30) or Manila Genesis Entertainment (721-4405 loc. 102) for tickets to "Menu."

Noteworthy

Green Guardians

For the people of WWF-Philippines, the work of saving the earth is never done. SIM pays tribute to some of them in commemoration of the international organization's 40th anniversary

THE OFFICE space is small, an old house in UP Village cramped with small desks and crowded corners where the problem of environmental conservation gets some hands-on attention.

Welcome to WWF-Philippines.

Lissa Lesaca is the technical assistant to the Cetacean Conservation and Research Project. "I guess it's fun here because a lot of us are still young. Or at least, young at heart." Many of the project team leaders fall between the ages of 25 and 30, young indeed considering the burdens they are taking on. The Cetacean Project is currently doing research on a pod of Humpback whales (*Megaptera noveangliae*). The pod is the first of its kind in Philippine waters, and the research is pioneering. According to Lissa, the pressure to come up with data that has both credibility and integrity is overwhelming.

Moonyeen Alava, project team leader for Elasmobranch Research, definitely knows what it is like to be a pioneer. Elasmobranchs are the family of sharks, skates and rays. Sharks in particular are one of the creatures for which basic information regarding species identification, life cycles, and migratory patterns have yet to be established. In 1999, the team, along with experts from Australia and the Silliman Marine Lab, presented the possibility of the presence of 24 possibly new species, including 14 sharks. To date, two new species of sharks have been confirmed. Moonyeen looks around the walls of her little corner, covered with anatomical illustrations, notes, tables and charts. "It's hard work, but I love it. I don't think I could do anything else. Can you imagine? Two new species!"

Moonyeen Alava hams it up with a replica of her favorite animal

And that is what holds WWF Philippines together. The people here work for things besides monetary compensation. Like the shy and sensitive Irrawady dolphins of Malampaya Sound. And the Blue Crab habitats in Negros. And the families that live at the foot of Mt. Guiting-guiting in Sibuyan Island.

A Sibuyanon, Demetrio Romion, or *Mang* Demet as his friends know him, is the community relations officer for the Sibuyan Project. For the past five years, he has been working with WWF Philippines and the communities of Sibuyan to help spread basic information, conserve species and lobby for laws. "The income I earn is nice for my family, but I feel this work is a dream come true for me. If only we can succeed in our efforts, then I know my children, when they grow up, will still have these wonderful things to see and make use of."

The battle for the environment is long and

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Cover Story
by Cora Llamas
photographs by Mike Aquinta

Playwright J.B. Capino, director Nonon Padilla and a cast of Pinoy talents breath life into an opera classic and give it a contemporary edge by setting it against the phenomenon of overseas Filipino workers.

The Opera and the OFW

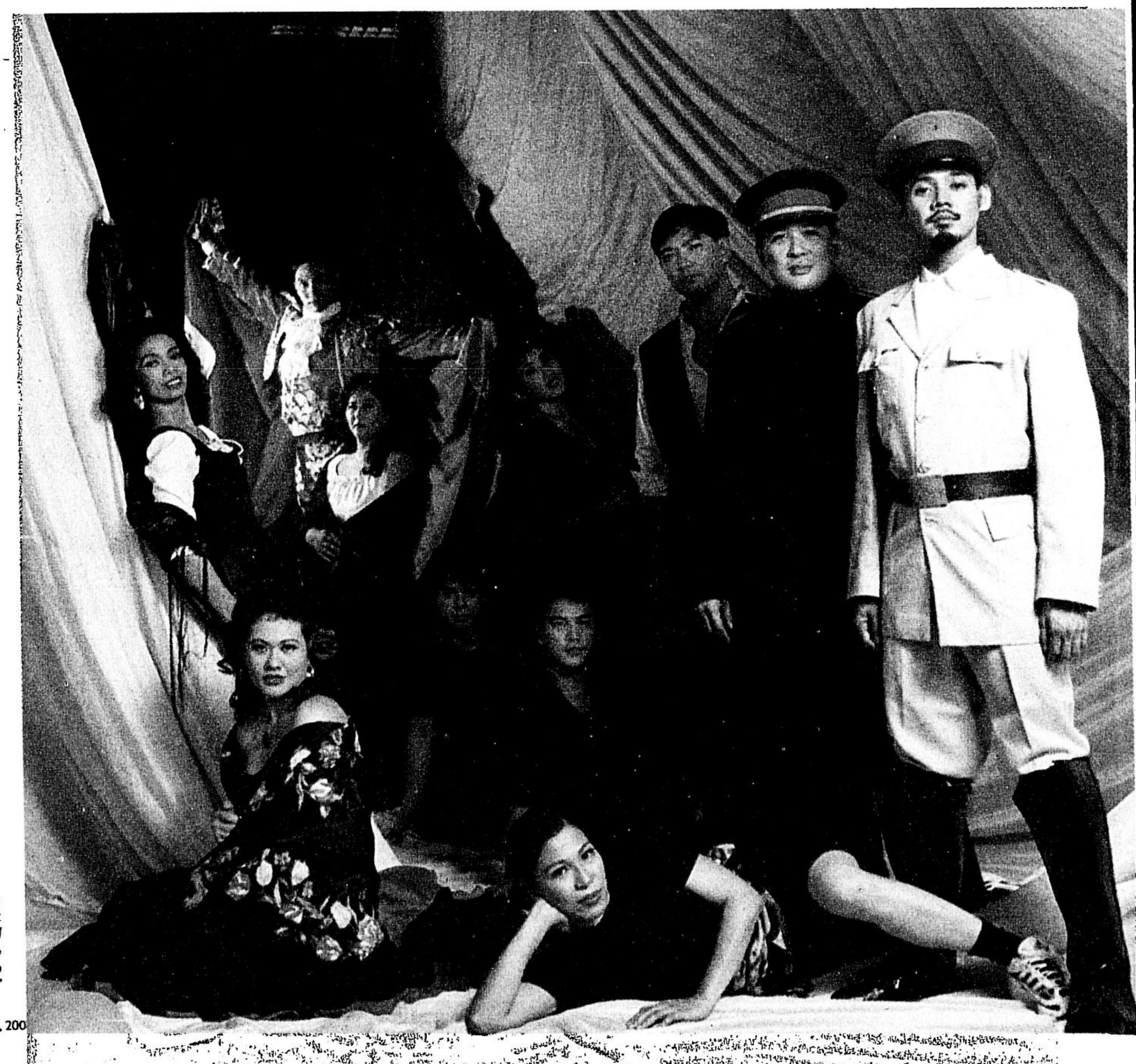
A GRAND OLD STAGE, DRESSED UP TO DRAMATIZE THE ROMANTIC ANTICS OF FRENCH COURTESANS OR THE FINAL HOURS OF THE GOTTERDAMERUNG. THE STORY TOLD IN POWERFUL, PASSIONATE BUT INDECIPHERABLE LYRICS, SUNG BY DIGNIFIED OLD FOLKS, MOST OF WHOM ARE FORMAL AND FAT.

It's high-brow, high-culture art, all right, but very far removed from ordinary, important issues that common people live through. You know, like poverty, loneliness, dichotomized families, and the mad rush to the good life overseas.

That's how many Filipinos still see opera these days. Great classy music, loaded with European images, and possibly good drama – if you can understand it.

"*Ano ba ang masasabi ng mga manggagawa sa* opera *na nasa wikang banyaga*?" (What can workers say about an opera in a foreign language?) Or so playwright J.B. Capino thought for a long time. Opera appeared too ostentatious for his taste, and too *burgis* for his fiery sense of nationalism. While in the United States on a Fulbright scholarship, he avoided "like the plague" the nearby Chicago Lyric Opera, one of America's best, while studying for his doctorate in Film at Northwestern University. His fondest memories of the art form were the late Rolando Tinio's translations of *"La Traviata"* and *"La Boheme."* Capino revered the theater master and even now describes his passing as a "great loss."

That appreciation for the arduous work of translation soon deepened, but with a different twist. In one of life's delightful ironies, during a few months' furlough back home in Manila to wrap up research for his dissertation, Capino came into contact with old friend and colleague Nonon Padilla. The two had worked together a few years back; Padilla, artistic director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines' (CCP) resident theater company, Tanghalang Pilipino (TP), had directed Capino's translation of a play by Felipe Calderon dela Barca.



The cast of "Carmen": Headlining the first opera to betranslated and staged in Filipino since the late Rolando Tinio's "La Boheme"

This time Padilla was looking for someone who could translate "Carmen," Bizet's tragedy on romance, obsession, and freedom, into conversational Tagalog that people could readily understand. Capino, no opera buff, took the chance – and was soon transformed into a lover of the art.

But what really excited Capino was Padilla's revolutionary approach to "Carmen," which mixes it with a lot of theatrical devices. The final result should be more drama and theater than ethereal opera.

The dramatic thread binding the characters and the storyline together should also hit home. This "Carmen" promises to be as timely as today's headlines. And what could be timelier than the increasing escape of Pinoys abroad?

Capino drew part of his research from personal experience; he has met Filipinos in every European city he's gone to. "*Sa* Germany, Italy, Austria, *pakalat-kalat ang mga* Pinoys. (Pinoys are all over the place.) A McDonald's waitress in Austria treated me to a free McFlurry! When I lost myself, Pinoys on motorcycles helped me find my train back to my hotel. A neighbor in the US was a mail-order bride to this Irishman. She didn't speak a word of English. She always talked to me, *at wala siyang makausap*. I encouraged her to learn English by reading magazines and talking to people."

The language in this "Carmen" translation is definitely "not Balagtas," claims Capino. "Personally, it is my concern that many people understand the opera. The vocabulary has a very contemporary flavor."

"I wanted a totally different translation that will reflect today's language and sensibilities," confirms Padilla. "'Carmen,' with all its duets and love scenes, reads like a *zarzuela*. Opera was originally conceived as spoken dialogue. This gives us the license to treat this production not as grand opera, but as a *zarzuela*."

Padilla whittled down what could have been a grandiose setting into a chamber opera. Then, in a move that bent theatrical boundaries, he interspersed the drama on the embattled love affair between a very free-spirited lady and a proper gentleman with snippets of modern scenes showing the plight of the OFWs. Even as the glamorous, flirtatious Carmen alternately lures and ditches the bewildered Don Jose, along with other men, brief episodes alternately flash that let us hear the monologues of an Elvis impersonator in Japan or a maid in Italy.

Distracting the audience from the drama is obviously not Padilla's intention. What he hopes to do is parallel "Carmen's" deeper undercurrent themes of alienation and the misuse of freedom with the dilemma of Pinoys trying to find a home in other countries.

"I'd like to present it as an experiment on drama and opera," Padilla says. He half-jokingly adds he's ready to face the tomato-throwing purists. "We're bouncing off the opera with the experiences of the OFWs."

The title character of this emotional maelstrom, Carmen, can personify freedom at its best and worst excesses. Not many people can handle the liberty that she represents.

"We portray Don Jose as a *probinsyano*. Many seamen and OFWs experience what it's like to be free for the first time when they get out of the country. They either adapt to it or drown in it. Don Jose drowns in his own sorrow."

"The Filipinos who go abroad discover a whole new moral and cultural universe," Capino points out. "The freedom that many find is very addictive. They have money, they acquire cars and houses, nobody is waiting for them to come home, they have several boyfriends." Unfortunately, a lot discover that "*walang sentro ang buhay nila, para silang isda na sumusubok mabuhay sa ere*." (Their lives have no center, they're like fish trying to fly.)

In the end, both Don Jose and Carmen pay for the lady's freewheeling behavior. "*Nakita niyang nagkakagulo-gulo ang buhay nila at hindi na niya alam kung ano ang nagawa niya*. (She sees what a mess their lives have become, and she doesn't know what she's done.) Is that freedom, to spiral out of control? Without having any boundaries to guide you?"

"It is a psychological problem," interjects Padilla. "You don't know what to do with that abundance when you have it right away, and you may go overboard."

Pinoys who take a dizzying spin may also be also threatened with losing their cultural and racial compass. "Some of them stop being Filipinos and become citizens of their adopted country because of their kids or husband or other reasons. Then, at one point, their past rushes down at them; they were bred and educated in the Philippines, but they've lost that essence of being part of the Filipino. Immigrants feel the problem more acutely. It's a cut-off point. Now, that cutting edge —that's the character of Carmen, it's about surrender, submission, and freedom, with one's total abandon."

TP is co-producing the new translation with The Philippine Opera Company. To project the musical and dramatic firepower, both companies are fielding formidable talent from both sides: Jay Valencia-Glorioso and Josephine Roces-Chavez will play Carmen, and Don Jose is alternated by Nolyn Cabahug and Eladio Pamaran. Escamillo, Carmen's other lover, will be essayed by Bong Chavez and Roeder.

Its creators maintain that, despite or maybe because of the dramatic innovations, this "Carmen" will stay true to its spirit while reaching out to a modern audience.

"We found equivalents in today's society for the main themes and problems in the arias," Capino says. "You just may empathize with the Filipino OFWs and the opera becomes a huge backdrop. In the end, 'Carmen' becomes a distant dream."

Perhaps like America, Australia, the United Kingdom, or other so-called lands of promise that many Pinoys are yearning for, beyond their impoverished, embattled own?

J.B. Capino's translation of Bizet's "Carmen," a co-production of Tanghalang Pilipino and The Philippine Opera Company, will run for three weeks starting October 5, at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, CCP.

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52	91,320	182,640	273,960	365,280	456,600	913,200	1,826,400
53	87,240	174,480	261,720	348,960	436,200	872,400	1,744,800
54	80,440	160,880	241,320	321,760	402,200	804,400	1,608,800
55	76,560	153,120	229,680	306,240	382,800	765,600	1,531,200
56	72,600	145,200	217,800	290,400	363,000	726,000	1,452,000
57	68,600	137,200	205,800	274,400	343,000	686,000	1,372,000
58	64,720	129,440	194,160	258,880	323,600	647,200	1,294,400
59	61,000	122,000	183,000	244,000	305,000	610,000	1,220,000
60	57,360	114,720	172,080	229,440	286,800	573,600	1,147,200
61	53,880	107,760	161,640	215,520	269,400	538,800	1,077,600
62	50,600	101,200	151,800	202,400	253,000	506,000	1,012,000
63	47,520	95,040	142,560	190,080	237,600	475,200	950,400
64	44,360	88,720	133,080	177,440	221,800	443,600	887,200
65	41,640	83,280	124,920	166,560	208,200	416,400	832,800
66	39,080	78,160	117,240	156,320	195,400	390,800	781,600
67	36,720	73,440	110,160	146,880	183,600	367,200	734,400
68	34,480	68,960	103,440	137,920	172,400	344,800	689,600
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55	227,163	527,617
56	227,474	525,349
57	227,167	521,350
58	226,705	516,649
59	226,053	511,064
60	224,648	503,358
61	222,970	494,782
62	220,738	485,064
63	218,275	474,829
64	214,095	461,485
65	210,437	449,730
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69	122,507	258,336
70	115,692	240,956

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   FAX NO.: _____
   ☐ Male ☐ Female
   OCCUPATION : _____
   COMPANY: _____
   BUSINESS ADDRESS : _____
   Please send my is insurance documents to my:
   ☐ Business Address ☐ Residence Address
   OFFICE TEL./FAX NO.: _____
   SSS/GSIS: _____
   TIN : _____
   DATE OF BIRTH : (mo/day/yr) ___/___/___ **Age :** ___
   E-MAIL ADDRESS : _____
2. **I wish to have** (amount of coverage depends on the number of units and age at effectivity of policy)
   ☐ 2 UNITS ☐ 10 UNITS ☐ 18 UNITS
   ☐ 4 UNITS ☐ 12 UNITS ☐ 20 UNITS
   ☐ 6 UNITS ☐ 14 UNITS ☐ 40 UNITS
   ☐ 8 UNITS ☐ 16 UNITS ☐ OTHER _____
3. **I wish to pay my premiums:**
   ☐ Annually ☐ Semi-Annually
   ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly
4. **In case of premium default:**
   I elect (Check one box only)
   ☐ **Automatic Payment of Premium Option**
   ☐ **Extended Term Insurance Option**
   In the absence of such election and should the premium due continue to be in default until the end of the grace period provided in the policy, this policy shall automatically continue in force as non-participating extended term insurance.
5. **I wish that the dividends apportioned to the policy, if any, be: (Check one box only)**
   ☐ **A. Used to reduce premium**
   ☐ **B. Left to earn interest**
   ☐ **C. Paid in cash if dividend or accumulated dividend is at least P200.00; if not, left on deposit to earn interest; if no election is made, option B shall apply.**
6. **Beneficiary :** _____
   Relationship to the applicant : _____
7. **Signature of applicant :** _____
   Date : _____

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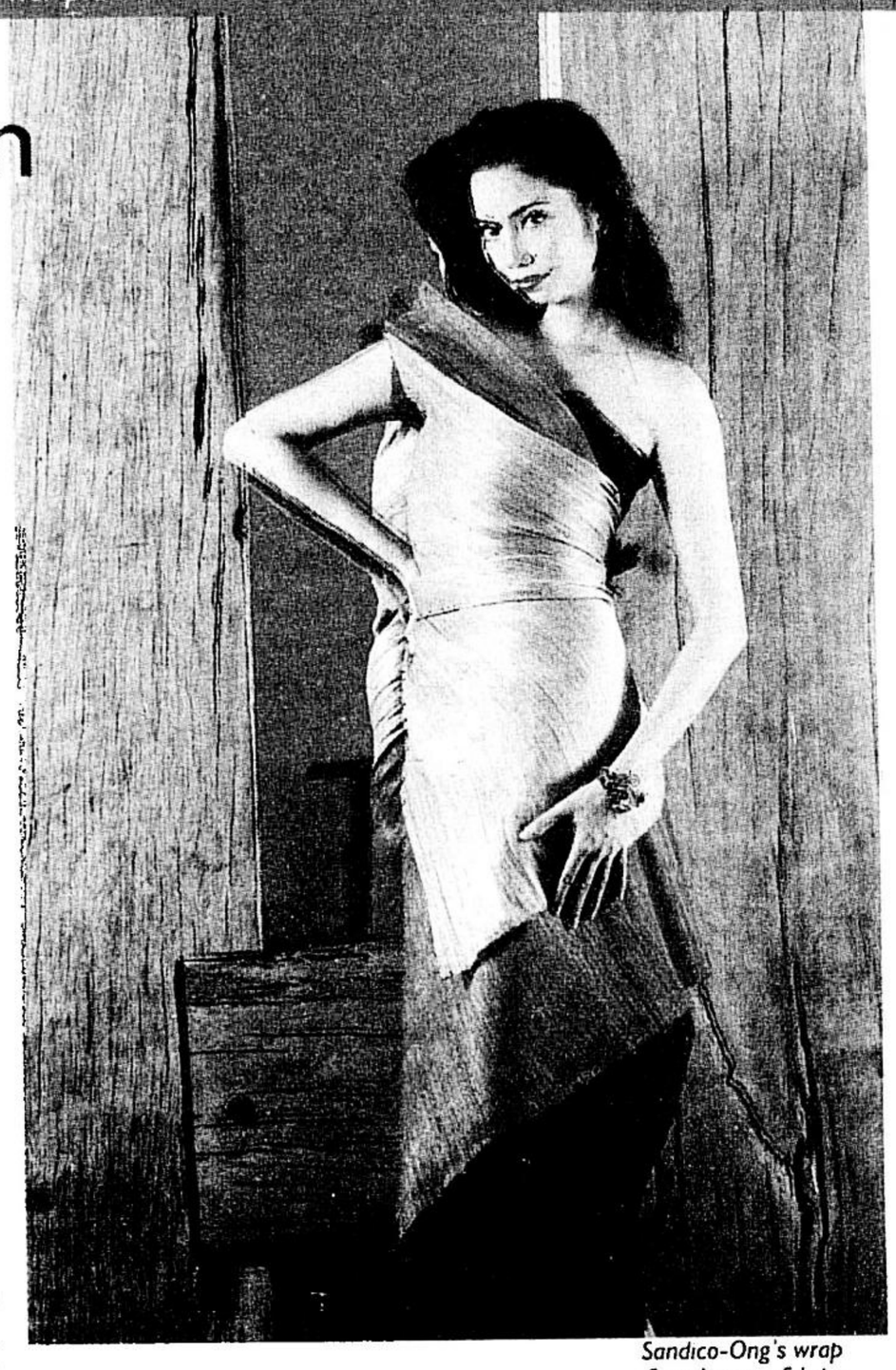
Stylewatch
by Rodolfo A. G. Silvestre Jr.

Dita Sandico-Ong has become the guardian angel and staunchest promoter of Pinoy fashion made from natural and locally-woven fabrics – and her designs have taken her places

Natural Woman



Sandico-Ong's wrap from banana fabric: Chic and pure

AS A TEENAGER IN THE MID-1970S, SHE WAS OF THAT GENERATION THAT SAW THE LAST DAYS OF THE FLOWER POWER SCENE. DISCOS WERE MAKING A COMEBACK, AND ONE "STAYED IN" DURING PARTIES TILL THE NEXT MORNING WHEN THE CURFEW WAS LIFTED. ONE WORE BELL-BOTTOMED PANTS AND BECAUSE FOREIGN TRAVEL WAS BANNED, SUMMER VACATIONS MEANT GOING UP TO BAGUIO.

Dita Sandico-Ong would have loved to be part of those goings-on. She had, after all, just emerged out of childhood, and was raring to experience what the rest of her bunch were up to. But her father had other plans.

"The woman who wears my clothes is someone who has more drama, flair in her life. She is not afraid to be different, and she has a sense of style that allows her to wear natural fabrics effortlessly and unconsciously"

On summer breaks, when her friends were partying and getting to meet the boys, she and her siblings were braving the hinterlands of Mindoro. "My father, who raised cattle on the island, hauled all of us into this wilderness and sort of gave us his own version of a 'back to nature' camp," says Dita.

"But my Mindoro experience also exposed me to the Mangyan, who wove their own clothes. I realize that my appreciation of natural fibers started during those years." Dita, whose labels include Caché, Lakshmi and her own name Dita Sandico-Ong or DSO, is one fashion designer known for her imaginative exploration of locally woven textile, turning them into chic yet understated outfits that women of style wear to luncheons, parties, cocktails and wedding breakfasts. Brides and their entourage have worn a Dita Sandico-Ong, and her *sinamay* wraps are one of a kind in the fashion world.

In recognition of her unique efforts, Dita was recently invited to present 15 of her designs, highlighting the wrap, in a gala fashion show during the World Eco Textile Conference held recently in Sarawak, Malaysia. With the National Commission on Culture and the Arts giving them assistance, Dita and anthropologist Dave Baradas, who has written a definitive paper on Cordillera basketry, were the Philippine representatives in this assembly of craftspeople and scholars aiming to share their knowledge and expertise on the use of natural fibers.

Dita at Earthaven: In harmony with nature

Romy Homillada

It's not the first international exposure for Dita. When the country celebrated its centenary, right after she launched her banana fabric line, she was invited by the Finnish ambassador to present a fashion show in his country.

"The audience was impressed by the possibilities that could be achieved with banana fabric. They could not believe that such a material could stand on its own, at the same time create a sophisticated image for the one who's wearing it," she recalls.

It had been a long way for the schoolgirl who secretly nurtured her dream to be an artist. "My classmates in elementary and high school didn't even know I could draw," she says. Her father, Fernando, "who could see through my personality more than anyone else can, suggested that I take up Fine Arts. I took the talent test at the University of the Philippines, which I luckily passed."

Her mother, Corazon, at first turned down the idea of her getting into an artistic career. A businesswoman who belongs to the family that owns COD Department store, she told Dita that "there's no money in the arts."

Dita's tenacity prevailed, and she first majored in painting but "I realized I needed some structure and direction. So I shifted to advertising."

She nevertheless made it up to her mother by helping with merchandising in COD. "She made me choose the items that we sold to the female teen set. And then, I accompanied her to luncheon fashion shows, which at that time were held almost every day in the five-star hotels."

As a result, "I again had one of those ideas. I saw the creations of the likes of Danny de la Cuesta and Mike de la Rosa. And I told myself that it must feel good to take the bow myself during those finales."

Right after college, she took a merchandising course in New York, "where I learned about fashion history, color, among other interesting things. My boyfriend wanted me back but since I was such a rebel even in college, I decided I wanted to make a real go of this. So I stayed put for two years till I got my diploma."

Then she came back home, married her boyfriend Manolo Ong, and while she was pregnant with their first child, opened her first shop.

"Actually, we would move house here and there, until my mother suggested that we stay put in her Balete Drive house. I put up my shop in her garage, while my *costureras* did their work at the back of the house."

Soon, her friends were coming, as well as walk-in customers who liked what they saw in her display window. Not long after, she was invited to participate in group shows. Christian Espiritu no less took notice and wrote about her dresses in his fashion column.

That was when she chose to focus on native fabrics, like Abel Iloko which she had been exposed to, since her maternal side of the family originated from Ilocos Sur. A family friend, nutritionist Sanirose Orbeta, helped her source the material, which came in great quantity from her contacts in the north.

A major turning point came by way of her first meeting with a weaver who made good *piñalino*, or pineapple with linen. The weaver-designer Eliza and Dita became close friends, even going together to the countryside, as they searched for more native fabrics. On her own, though, Dita met the head of a group of weavers who produce banana fiber. "They are based in Virac, Catanduanes. We have more or less established an exclusive working relationship. I buy everything they make, and they, in turn, sell to me everything they finish," she reveals.

The arrangement has proved beneficial to both parties. While the weavers protect Dita, even refusing to sell to others who insist on buying from them, they have in turn found a patroness who not only advances the cash that they need come enrolment time or a child's baptism, but also helps develop the industry, as she shares with them her knowledge of design. She has thus commissioned them to make bags, gift containers, tapestries, stationery, notebooks and other items that can be made out of the various grades of the fabric.

Of course, her main line remains her fashion wear. Today Dita maintains shops in Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Tower at Edsa Shangrila, Annapolis in Greenhills and the Earthlite, at the fourth floor of COD in Cubao.

Earthlite is a "wholistic place" of which Dita is the president. Her aunt Belen King serves as the chairman, and between the two of them, "we have established a center that houses a wellness service center that provides natural and alternative medical services, a healthy restaurant that serves chemical-free meals and snacks, a meditation room, organic market, art gallery, a shop that sells native crafts..." Dita waxes visionary as she explains how she hopes to introduce to consumers from all sectors the advantages and pleasures of living in harmony with nature.

And then, on weekends, she goes to Earthaven in the mountains of San Mateo, Rizal where, as in the poem Desiderata, "I seek whatever peace there may be in silence." Also the result of a collaboration between her and Mrs. King, whom she fondly refers to as "Ma Bel," Earthaven is envisioned to be a retreat for healing, as well as a place where craftspeople and artists can do their thing. Somehow, all these go back to the time when her father would bring her and her siblings to Mindoro. If she is at home where the amenities of modern civilization are absent, "I have only my father to thank. How I hated it then when he tried to make us live as close to nature as possible, and make us appreciate the sustainable lifestyle that the Mangyan led. But now I am grateful to him more than ever."

To page 15

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1. Look at the chart to determine the monthly premium according to the plan desired.
2. Complete the Enrollment Form. Be sure all questions are answered.
3. Sign and date the Enrollment Form. Remember, you should be the one to sign the form.
4. Clip the completed form and mail it to:

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E-mail _____ Cell No. _____

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Occupation/Profession _____

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Please check the Plan you require:

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text and photographs
by Natalia Diaz

Her best-selling book of nasty rhymes describes her as "a nice person deep inside, with just a touch of Dr. Hyde." Indeed, who'd ever think self-styled Blair Bitch poet Chinie Hidalgo used to teach religion at an exclusive girls' school?

The Bitching Hour

DRESSED IN SIGNATURE BLACK, CHINIE HIDALGO WATCHES PEOPLE FROM INSIDE AN EMPTY WINE BAR, SCRIBBLING HER THOUGHTS ON SHEETS OF PAPER. "I'M A VERY CURIOUS PERSON," CHINIE SAYS. "I LIKE OBSERVING PEOPLE, I TRY TO IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO BE THIS OR THAT PERSON. PEOPLE FASCINATE ME."

A harmless enough gesture, yet it might serve as a warning to these people she observes that Chinie Hidalgo is the quirky, irreverent poet behind the successful book, "The Blair Bitch Project," a collection of hilarious poems expressing nasty thoughts most of us can't say out loud.

It's Mother Goose with a really bad case of PMS—each poem is set in four-line rhymes, conveying mean thoughts that many of us secretly relate to

Chinie can't help but smile when talking about her first book. Indeed, it's hard to stifle a smile just recalling the scathing titles one encounters, such as "Your Baby's Kinda Ugly" and "You Look Good, But Bigger Than My House." It's Mother Goose with a really bad case of PMS—each poem is set in four-line rhymes, conveying mean thoughts that many of us secretly relate to. In one poem, "Where Exactly Did You Learn Your English?," she humorously writes, "Listen buddy, you're a nice guy/ But your English is a scream/ The final straw was when you asked/ If I 'enjoyed to sweem.'"

"The best part about this whole thing is when I see somebody reading my book and they're laughing," Chinie shares, "I really like that, seeing people laugh." Not exactly a comment you'd expect from a self-described "bitch"—but in fact, once past her black-clad, blasé façade, you discover a very warm, vibrant woman with an infectious laugh.

Chinie discloses that "The Blair Bitch Project" started, ironically enough, from invitations she used to write for her friends' children's parties. Having a knack for rhyming words, she would always set the invitations in rhyme. It led her to the idea of writing a book of poetry, except she didn't want to write the usual love poems she believed people were tired of. Wanting to give people something different and enjoyable, an idea hit her – funny, bitchy poetry! She gathered her friends to help her cook up catty topics, and she wrote about the themes that inspired her. She collected her favorite poems in a book and printed 750 copies to give as gifts and sell in bazaars. The book became an instant "underground" hit. Those who bought it loved it, passed it on to friends and soon, Chinie was receiving calls from people asking where they could buy more. "The Blair Bitch Project" eventually found its way to the shelves of Humor Post, and in a few weeks, the books were sold out. The book is now available at Humor Post, Bookmark and The Filipino Bookstore.

Chinie admits surprise at the success of "The Blair Bitch Project," confessing she would have been happy had she sold just 10 copies. The book's success can be attributed to the fact that readers can always find something they can relate to—a nasty but hilarious line about people's flaws one can't discuss in polite society. Chinie offers a similar explanation: "I think everybody has an inner bitch. When people read it, they are actually relieved that they're not the only ones who've thought that way." Chinie echoes that sentiment in her book's prologue, which goes, "I'm really a good person/ Like we all are, deep inside/ But in the kindest Dr. Jekyll/ Lurks a nasty Mr. Hyde."

A Jekyll and Hyde complex is a diagnosis people easily attach to Chinie, especially upon discovering that this same "Blairbitch" taught Religion for eight years at Assumption. Teaching is in fact one of Chinie's passions. She originally wanted to teach English but was instead offered the Christian Morality subject. "I was shocked," she confesses, "I said, 'I can't teach Religion, what are you talking about?' It was more because I felt so unworthy." Taking on her assignment as a challenge, she learned as much as she could about the subject until she started to like it. She recalls the first time she walked into a classroom, finding her new students staring at her incredulously. "I knew they were thinking 'She's gonna be our Morality teacher?'" Their reactions weren't unjustified either, for Chinie is far from your stereotypical, goody-two-shoes Religion teacher. She was known for sauntering into her classes wearing mini-skirts and holding her chalk like a cigarette. Perhaps it was that unpretentious, unabashed dimension that eventually endeared her to her students. "I think one of the most important things I passed on to my